

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Published Since 1877

Missouri speakers talk man to man on need for integrity

POPLAR BLUFF, Mo. (BP) — Talking man to men, Texas preacher Thomas Oglesby fired both barrels at a warehouse full of adult males in Poplar Bluff, Mo.

"If you piloted an airplane the way you take care of your family," he said, "hundreds of people would die."

A sorrowful voice in the audience responded, "I know that's right."

If men did their jobs the way they take care of their families, Oglesby continued, they'd get fired.

"Your family ought to be the cause for which you're willing to fight and give it all," said Oglesby, pastor of South Jefferson Church, Mount Pleasant, Texas. He told the men that many of their wives were at home praying, "God, get hold of his heart today. Make him come home a man!"

Give up the bass boat, Oglesby exhorted. Give up the hunting, give up the sports, and take care of the family. "There's bad stuff out there. You're the man — you've got to lead them through it."

Approximately 1,600 men from at least six states gathered in the cavernous warehouse to hear Oglesby and four other speakers in

February give guidance and encouragement on standing up for God and for their families.

The "Men of Integrity: Let's Talk Man to Man" conference was sparked by men from Poplar Bluff who attended Promise Keepers stadium rallies last year in Denton and Irving, Texas.

One was David Groves, pastor of Living Word Church, Poplar Bluff. After the second rally, Groves recalled, he and a colleague were pondering author Henry Blackaby's advice in the book, "Experiencing God." Blackaby urges Christians to find out where God is working and join him.

"We said, 'What does it take — a truck to hit us? He's working with men!'" Groves exclaimed. He and others began to plan a men's meeting in Poplar Bluff. Interest spread like an unquenchable fire and they quickly realized no local church was big enough to accommodate it.

Speaker Harry Walls III, pastor of Christian Fellowship Church, Wellston, Mo., remarked on the setting as he looked out on men of all ages camped on folding chairs, some watching him on video screens. "What do they call this — the industrial tabernacle or something?" Not that he minded. "We need to fill a few warehouses — amen?"

Walls told of attending the first big Promise Keepers stadium rally in 1993 in Boulder, Colo. He

said his wife used to be a weeper but now she's a reaper because he's a Promise Keeper.

The focus of Promise Keepers is not on gathering by the tens of thousands, Walls noted. It is on each individual man. "If we get

PROMISE KEEPER S

together like this and sing and shout and the walls stay up in our hearts, we're wasting our time."

Citing 1 Peter 1:13-16, Walls pointed out a godly man strives for purity in every aspect of his life, including sexual purity. "We all struggle with that, if we're going to be honest," Walls said. "We're supposed to be talking man to man, right?"

Sexual impurity — whether impure thoughts or temptations or actions — is at epidemic proportions because our culture has lowered the standard of holiness, Walls argued. "We've been told so much is all right, we've bought into it." Other topics Walls addressed were:

— Acceptance and accountability. "God loves us enough to accept us as we are," Walls said. "He loves us too much to leave us that way."

— Growth in godliness. All men have the promise that God has begun a good work in them, Walls noted, and the work will carry on until Christ returns.

— Excitement in evangelism. When a man knows he is becoming a better husband, father, pastor and his soul cries, "Hallelujah!" Walls said, he will realize, "I've got to tell somebody!"

Phil Hunter, pastor of West County Community Church in St. Louis, set the plain-speaking tone of the event in his opening sermon when he affirmed men coming together for worship and fellowship. "If you're trying to walk the Christian life alone, you're a fool!" he stated.

Hunter predicted that many men would want to go home from the conference and tell their wives, "I've not been loving you as Christ loves me — forgive me." Men would want to confess to their children they had been provoking them to anger, and again ask forgiveness.

From the podium, Groves instructed the men to break into groups of four and to give one-minute testimonies. Then Groves urged any man who realized he didn't have a testimony to stand up and go forward. "If you're a man and you need God, you ought to be man enough to stand up for him." About a half-dozen men went forward and prayed to receive Christ.

The key to being a Promise Keeper, Phil Evans told the gathering, is to decide there is nothing more important than being a godly man. "God is our model as a Promise Keeper."

Brotherhood, Promise Keepers complementary, Burton says

MEMPHIS (BP) — Jim Burton won't be drawn into a discussion of how Promise Keepers is succeeding at motivating Baptist men where traditional Brotherhood programs might have failed. "I'm not interested in arguing with a movement of God," said Burton, director of Men's Ministries for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis.

Instead, Burton emphasized the way Promise Keepers and the Brotherhood Commission complement each other, with the former motivating men to their godly calling and the latter equipping the local church to minister to, teach, and send out its men.

Burton sees this as a critical time in America's history, with families in dysfunction and churches lacking men in leadership roles. Yet it's a blessed time, as evidenced by men packing stadiums to praise and worship God and to rededicate themselves to him.

The Brotherhood Commission will recommend to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting this June in Atlanta that it:

— acknowledge and endorse Promise Keepers as a movement of God specifically impacting the lives of many men and churches across our country.

— recognize Promise Keepers as a catalytic ministry for beginning Men's Ministries in local churches, rather than a continuing curriculum-based program of Men's Ministries.

— affirm participation in Promise Keepers rallies and groups as a complement to the programs of Southern Baptist churches.

Crossgates Church, Brandon

will host a Men's Ministry Leadership Seminar, sponsored by Promise Keepers. The seminar will be held April 7-8, beginning at 6 p.m. on Friday evening, concluding with a 4:30 p.m. session on Saturday. Purpose of the seminar is to help participants deepen their relationships with God and their families, and to develop methods of outreach to other men. Cost is \$25 per person, excluding lodging and meals. Walk-up registration is \$35 per person (space-available basis). Deadline for mail-in registration is March 24. Write to: Promise Keepers, P.O. Box 1442, Arvada, CO 80001-1442. Call-in registration deadline is March 30; phone (800) 888-7595.

Halloween fight ends

A Florida father's campaign to remove Halloween-centered symbols and practices from his sons' elementary school is over, at least as far as the legal system is concerned. Utilizing the same First Amendment argument made against Christian displays in public schools, Robert Guyer of Alachua County objected to the depiction of witches, cauldrons, and brooms at Hidden Valley Elementary School — where the teachers even dressed as witches for Halloween festivities — because the symbols are connected to Wicca, an organized religion based on witchcraft. Guyer kept his children out of school on Halloween and sought an injunction against the school. The county school board decided to fight Guyer in court and was granted dismissal of the injunction request. An appeals court ruled that even if the symbols do have religious significance to some people, Halloween celebrations do not violate church-state separation. Both the Florida and U.S. Supreme Courts declined without comment to hear the case.

60 days/60 seconds

A Texas church has taken advantage of the "Here's Hope. Share Jesus Now." revival campaign to add a unique feature to its worship times. First Church in Odessa, which is encouraging its members to share their faith with the lost every day during the 60-day "Here's Hope." period, is also encouraging members to share their faith with each other. Pastor Ernest Easley said church members are giving brief, one-minute testimonies on witnessing encounters at every church service. The idea, called "60-second Update for 60 days of Sowing," has been well received by church members. "We're using it as a way to keep it ('Here's Hope.') in front of our folks in a positive way of showing what God's doing through our people," Easley said. A recent church service featured teenagers who had led classmates to Christ during the soul-winning emphasis, in an effort to convince adults that they can get involved, too. "I'm sure that inside their hearts they were thinking, 'If our kids can do it, surely I can do it,'" he said.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Mississippi pastors begin receiving a "gift package" of Unification Church videotapes and books as part of a \$10 million mail campaign to enlist support for church founder Sun Myung Moon, currently in prison for tax evasion.

20 years ago

Former Mississippi Baptist pastor James L. Travis III will return to his native state from Georgia after his appointment as the first full-time chaplain at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

50 years ago

Mississippi student ministry specialist Chester Swor reports from Washington, D.C., that a national Christian youth rally there netted more than 1,200 pledges to win at least one person to Christ in the coming year.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

A peculiar people

The fragmentation of the Southern Baptist Convention has resulted in several fringe organizations. One such group is the "Alliance of Baptists." The Alliance was organized in 1986 around principles which the "progressive Baptists" said were being eroded under the conservative leadership of the SBC. In 1992 the Alliance let it be known that the membership no longer wanted to be identified with the SBC.

The Alliance, with Stan Haste as its executive director, claims 121 member churches. For a few years there was talk of a merger with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF), 1,378 contributing churches, but seemingly CBF was not "progressive" enough for the Alliance.

In its March meeting the Alliance adopted unanimously a motion made by Joe Foster of Wake Forest, N.C., that the report on human sexuality be received. Foster describes himself as a gay Christian and said the Alliance "gives us hope there are people for whom gay and lesbian Christians are people of worth." The report does not advocate homosexuality as a lifestyle, but encourages Alliance congregations to refrain from discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Does this mean that a homosex-

ual should be given "equal opportunity" to lead the Boy Scouts or an RA or GA organization? There are Sunday School teachers, staff members, pastors all under the equal opportunity umbrella. It's enough to make this editor glad the Alliance has chosen to distance itself from Southern Baptists.

Also, the Baptist Peace Fellowship, with a smattering of Southern Baptists in its membership, is constantly seeking to make peace among us. The fellowship "will work to defeat any anti-gay laws" and will seek to help churches find ways to fully include "our gay, lesbian, and bisexual sisters and brothers." They cry "peace, peace," when there is no peace.

Baptist entities are autonomous and answer well for themselves. For the most part they are Bible-believing, God-honoring people, and each congregation will speak for itself. However, could the members of the 121 Alliance churches really accept this? Freedom, yes, but our freedom is in Christ. This hardly shows how progressive we are, but how "compromising" we have become.

The Alliance also approved a statement calling for "genuine dialogue" between Baptists and Jews and argues for the "efficacy of the Jewish faith."

Bill Gordon, associate director

of the interfaith witness department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, said he affirmed the statement's call to dialogue but worried that the statement calls for Baptists to "compromise on the nature of the gospel."

Jim Sibley, a Southern Baptist representative to Israel who in recent years has unsuccessfully encouraged the Southern Baptist Convention to adopt a resolution on Jewish evangelism, offered the statement an equally harsh assessment.

"While the statement opposes anti-Semitism, it does not go far enough," Sibley said in a written response. "Those who would deny the Jewish people access to the gospel and contradict Jesus' claims espouse a form of anti-Semitism which, in the light of eternity, makes the horrors of Hitler's ovens pale into insignificance."

We Southern Baptists cannot afford to lose our moral nerve. Shallow evangelism, cheap grace, unregenerate members can exact a heavy toll in our churches. The acceptance of shamelessly low levels of morality may be commonplace in the cesspools of our nation, but God help us to keep the church a distinctive body of Christ-believing members who desire to proclaim the gospel to the whole world.

Overseas growth is evidence of the moving of God's Holy Spirit

By Mark Kelly

RICHMOND (BP) — The spirit of God is moving in the world and Southern Baptist foreign missionaries report remarkable progress in starting churches, discipling believers, and training leaders in 1994.

Overseas Baptists affiliated with Foreign Mission Board missionaries started 2,162 new churches, continuing a surge of church starts that has more than doubled the number of overseas congregations since 1987.

Membership in those churches pressed close to the 4 million mark, discipleship training enrollment almost doubled, and enrollment in residential Bible schools and seminaries increased 18.6%.

Developments in several countries represented encouraging progress toward the Foreign Mission Board effort to spread the gospel.

— Nigerian Baptists started 437 new churches in 1994, the largest annual number ever recorded in

any country in Southern Baptist foreign missions history. That represents one-fifth of the 2,162 churches organized worldwide and illustrates Africa's responsiveness to the gospel. Almost half of 1994's new Baptist churches overseas were African congregations.

— Southern Baptist missionaries in Mozambique witnessed an explosion of new churches as refugees from the country's newly ended civil war have returned home. Mozambicans who came to Christ through the ministry and witness of Southern Baptist relief workers in refugee camps have shared the gospel and started churches as they make their way back home. In Zambesia province, the number of churches doubled from 30 to 60 in one year and the number of believers grew from 10 to 5,000 since 1988.

In Cambodia, ravaged by decades of war, churches are "springing up all over the place," said a Southern Baptist relief

worker. In February, leaders from 40 Baptist congregations met to organize the first-ever Baptist association in Cambodia. They plan to organize a national convention.

— Missionary Wade Akin's "pioneer evangelism" strategy in the central Brazilian state of Minas Gerais has resulted in a burst of church growth. The strategy trains lay people in personal evangelism with a goal of starting new churches. The strategy's success has led Brazilian Baptists to apply it nationwide, setting a goal of 3,500 new churches by A.D. 2000.

Southern Baptists support about 4,100 missionaries in 132 countries (with work in 25 others) through contributions to the Cooperative Program unified giving plan and to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

The solid 7.1% increase in church starts continued a level of growth evident in 1993, when overseas Baptists broke the 2,000

"WELCOME TO CHURCH!
NOW — WHAT KIND OF SERMON
WOULD YOU PREFER TODAY?"



THE FRAGMENTS

One planted, another watered

Lifei Ji was an English teacher in the school system of Wuhan, China. Wuhan is a city of 3 million people, but there were only two churches in the city. Lifei was instructed by his superior to attend an English class being taught by some visiting Americans.

Jim Bennett and his wife Mary Margaret are members of Alta Woods Church in Jackson. They had volunteered to go to China and were now teaching the English course.

Over a period of time they met Lifei and led him to know Christ as his Savior. Lifei came to the U.S. at the invitation of the Bennetts, studied at Ole Miss, and in 1993 returned to

Wuhan for a visit.

He desperately wanted to witness to his family. Retired missionary Harry Raley supplied Lifei with the Chinese version of the tract, "How to Have a Full and Meaningful Life."

Last week Lifei spoke to the Metro Association mission banquet. He reported that four of his sisters had been saved, his wife's parents were saved, and several other family members are considering making a commitment to Christ.

Lifei expressed his gratitude to the Bennetts, the Raleys, and the Alta Woods Church. One planted, another watered, but God gave the increase. — GH

new church mark for the first time.

After almost 40 years of 3% to 4% annual growth, Southern Baptists have moved into a range of 7%. The goal is 10% annual growth by A.D. 2000, said Jim Slack, the board's evangelism and church growth analyst. By comparison, 878 new churches were organized in 1987.

But baptisms increased by a remarkable 15% in 1994. Southern Baptist missionaries reported 302,132 baptisms — the first time annual baptisms have ever topped 300,000.

Southern Baptists are in the

middle of a "decade of destiny," said Avery Willis, Foreign Mission Board senior vice president for overseas operations.

"More churches have been started overseas in the last seven years than in the Foreign Mission Board's first 143 years," Willis said. "God has prepared our harvest, and we're trying to keep up with him."

"The last five years of this century will answer the question of whether Southern Baptists will take the gospel to all peoples as God has been preparing us to do."

Kelly writes for FMB.

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Associate Editor.....William H. Perkins Jr.
Editorial Associate.....Florence Larrimore
Circulation Manager.....Renee Walley
Bookkeeper.....Betty Anne Bailey
Layout/Advertising.....Shannon T. Simpson
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Mississippi leaders react to proposed SBC restructure plan

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) was enthusiastic in its recent approval of the restructure plan for the Convention. During its February meeting, the committee's vote was 64 to 3 in favor of recommending the plan to the June meeting of the SBC in Atlanta.

As a follow-up to last week's article on SBC leaders' reactions to the proposed restructure, **The Baptist Record** has gleaned the following statements from Mississippi denominational leaders:

Rex Yancey, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and pastor of First Church, Pascagoula, said: "The [Program and Structure Study] Committee basically has a good plan. We need to streamline our programs. This is painful, but necessary. It is regrettable they did not work closer with state conventions and do more to

keep the WMU (Woman's Missionary Union) involved in the missions offerings. I hope they will work with the state conventions before implementing this plan."

Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), said: "All the implications of the reorganizational proposal are not yet fully known. As full discussion continues, the costs, the effects of the changes, and any improvements in efficiency will become more fully known and weighed against our ability to carry out the Great Commission. It is to be hoped that after full debate, all components will come together to shape us into the most efficient organization we can be to carry out that commission. That's probably where we'll come out, if such full and statesmanlike discussions are permitted while searching for the

Holy Spirit's leadership."

Reuel May of Jackson, a member of the SBC Executive Committee, said: "The fact that the Executive Committee approved the restructuring overwhelmingly is indicative of the need of it. The new organization will help to overcome bureaucratic tendencies. It will save money which can be used in mission work and in our seminaries. We need to keep stewardship alive and growing. Also, the historical record of Southern Baptists is important and this will help preserve it."

Larry Otis of Tupelo, also a member of the Executive Committee, commented: "... On Tuesday night, less than 24 hours [after seeing the Program and Structure Study Committee's report], the SBC Executive Committee was called upon to vote on this major report. The report is the most

sweeping change in SBC organization in over 100 years. We were asked to vote on short notice and with limited discussion.

"I approve of many of the changes of the report, but voted against the report for the following reasons:

"1) We did not have adequate time to study the report and its potential impact on our churches, associations, and state conventions.

"2) There was no idea given as to the cost of the proposed changes. The study committee thought it would save money, but would only commit to study the potential cost.

"3) The assignments and mission statements in the report use the term 'assist churches...' indicating a more direct SBC-to-local-church relationship as opposed to the traditional working through the state conventions.

"4) The only reference in the report of the relationship with the state conventions was a footnote #4. The importance of the partnership with the state conventions was not stressed in any aspect of the report, Cooperative Program, missions, or any element. The footnote calls for the older state conventions to assume home missions without financial assistance from the Home Mission Board (HMB).

"5) The lack of involvement of the Executive Committee, SBC trustees, and state convention executives or officers in the results of content of the reorganization report.

"6) The effort of the study committee and officers of the convention in keeping the information in the report from those expected to vote.

"7) The assignment of the promotion of the special mission offerings to the FMB and HMB, without any mention of the supporting role of the WMU in missions promotion and education for SBC churches.

"8) The combining of SBC activities into five organizations

and reducing the trustees limits participation of all Baptists in Baptist activities.

"9) The special committee membership was very small and select.

"10) All people involved in the process were Spirit-led to be involved and bring to the discussion a spiritual motivation that seeks to understand, thus ask questions. We were then told that 'we are not willing to be under the leadership of the Lord' — not a proper response to another Christian. It assumes we are not under the leadership of the Lord."

David Michel, director of Stewardship and Cooperative Program Promotion, MBCB, said: "Although the restructuring of SBC agencies appears to have great promise for streamlining our national organization, it seems to diminish the personal contributions many have made to Baptist life. I think specifically of those who have committed their lives to stewardship development. For years stewardship and evangelism have been considered as emphases too important to be relegated to a single church program. Should the Stewardship Commission be dissolved into the Baptist Sunday School Board, what will prevent this overarching concern from being buried under many others?"

Paul Harrell, Brotherhood Department director for MBCB, said: "Relocating the Brotherhood Commission and restructuring its work into the North American Mission Board can be a very positive thing for men's and boys' work. It will give a broader scope of mission responsibility. It will place us in a position to have a greater impact on world-wide missions. This reconfiguration will give expressions to new terminology more on the cutting edge of where we live today. Such terms as men's ministries, Promise Keepers, Legacy Builders will move us into the 21st century."

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Mohler asks SBTS dean Garland for resignation

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — The dean of Southern Seminary's school of social work was fired March 20 after telling students that new standards instituted by the seminary's president will make it impossible to hire qualified faculty.

President Albert Mohler asked for the resignation of Diana Garland, dean of the Carver School of Social Work, after Garland told a student forum that the future of the Carver School is "in serious jeopardy" and accreditation by the Council of Social Work Education is threatened.

The dispute arose over the hiring of a professor for Carver, the nation's only accredited, seminary-based social-work school. Mohler said he blocked the election of David Sherwood because of the candidate's position on women pastors. But that's inappropriate, Garland said, since Sherwood meets the school's official criteria for election.

Mohler asked Garland to resign, he said, because she pre-empted

"official administrative structures" and released "private and privileged information" in addressing the student forum.

Although fired as dean, Garland remains on the seminary faculty. She joined the faculty in 1983 and became dean in 1993. Her husband, David, teaches New Testament at the Louisville, Ky., seminary.

Garland's firing as dean appears to reinforce the assertion that the Carver School may not survive. Garland told students even Mohler told her the school would not survive her resignation.

Asked why she was fired, Garland said Mohler "cannot work with a dean who brings pressure on the president and on the institution." She said she brought pressure on him by releasing the document she read to students.

Mohler met for about an hour with angry social work students shortly after announcing Garland's dismissal as dean. He told students he does not want to kill the Carver School, but noted "the

culture of social work and the culture of theological education are not congruent."

The student forum earlier in the day was sponsored by Southern Seminary's Organization of Student Social Workers, who invited Garland to speak. About 70 of the school's 117 social work students attended the session, with most remaining afterward to plan a means of appealing the school's cause to Mohler, seminary trustees, and Carver supporters.

This is the second crisis to rock the Carver School in the past month. In February, professor Timothy Johnson announced his departure amid charges of racism and broken promises regarding tenure.

The current crisis came to a head after Mohler vetoed the nomination of Sherwood to fill a new tenure-track position on the Carver faculty. Sherwood directs the social work program at Gordon College in Wenham, Mass.

Garland and students involved in the interview process described Sherwood as a person committed to conservative, evangelical Christianity. Garland detailed the process by which Sherwood was interviewed and approved by a student panel, the Carver faculty, and Vice President David Dockery.

In her statement to students, Garland suggested Mohler has established a new set of restrictions for faculty candidates that consider "the private thoughts" of candidates on issues outside the Abstract of Principles.

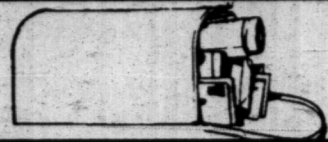
Anti-violence rally announced

A "Stop the Violence" Rally will be held May 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the Mississippi Memorial Stadium in Jackson. All junior and senior high school students and young adults are invited. Sponsored by all major area denominational groups, the rally will host outstanding college athletes and nationally-known musicians and speakers. Cooper Walton, member of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, is chairman of the planning committee. For more information, contact him at (601) 956-1509. Jim Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, and Jerry Young, pastor of New Hope Church, Jackson, are also involved in planning the event.

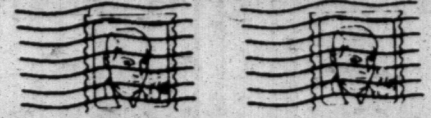


Missionary journey recorded

Zelma (left) and James Foster attended a mission banquet March 9 at First Church, Jackson. The Fosters, former Southern Baptist missionaries to China, the Philippines, and Guyana, were among approximately 430 people (including 10 former missionaries or missionary couples) who attended the banquet. Mrs. Foster is author of **A Dream Come True**, a journey through the Fosters' missionary experiences. The annual event is sponsored by the Metro Association's Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union, and area churches. (BR photo by Guy Henderson)



Letters to the editor



True ministry

Editor:

I appreciate **The Baptist Record** and its contents. I also look forward to reading it each week.

The letter to the editor from Glen Brown entitled, "Preachers faulted" was interesting and contained a good bit of truth. I would like to share something on the positive side of a "God-called

minister," who has his priorities in the right place.

My brother, Haven Watson, passed away with cancer in 1970. During the ordeal he was in the hospital in Tupelo. He met a young minister at the hospital and the bonding between the two was quite evident. His visits in the hospital were frequent and in fact one night about 11 p.m., he came with a nice bouquet of flowers and he

told my brother that his members had a "sweetheart banquet" and after the banquet, they wanted him to have the flowers and he could be their "sweetheart."

After returning home (about 70 miles from Tupelo), who shows up to visit my brother, but this minister of the gospel. Who shows up at my brother's funeral? The same minister. By the way, he came even though he wasn't

"invited," as you suggest in your note to Mr. Brown.

This minister is now the pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson — Jim Futral. He is a pastor who has his priorities straight. His thoughtfulness and concern will never be forgotten by this family.

Thank you for sharing the Baptist news with us.

Travis Watson Jr.
Eupora

Super compromise?

Editor:

M.L. Jones (**The Baptist Record**, Feb. 16) asked the question if other church members were as concerned as he was over the Super Bowl Sunday issue. Are churches compromising by dismissing evening services or replacing the pulpit with a television so that members won't miss a single "snap"? Should the church "adapt" so that "some" may be saved?

As pastor of a Southern Baptist Church, I feel as though the choice is a matter of priorities. Which do we love more? A corrupt football game or an incorruptible Word of God? Getting the church together around a TV screen — exposing everyone in God's house to the endless alcohol commercials?

Here's the truth! Super Bowl Sunday activities at the church are a crutch under the arms of crippled church members/pastors! Churches which rely on those activities to get people to church are generally the ones that can't get them to come any other way. They'd rather hear the quarterback call an "audible" than to hear their preacher preach! Folks, Jesus doesn't hand out crutches! He hands out swords! And you can't hold a sword in your hand when you have a crutch in it.

David A. Crowe, pastor
Siloam Church
Meadville

Misses the pen pals

Editor:

Ladies and gentlemen, Hi! I used to enjoy your Pen Pal Club. What happened to it? I don't have any pen pals now that you stopped printing it. Please get back in touch!

Kristen Burton
Tupelo

Editor's Note: Sorry, Kristen. Several people thought it was unwise to print street addresses of pen pals. We could use pen pal letters if the writers have a post office box number rather than street address. Thanks.

Study group clarifies WMU status in recommendation

By Herb Hollinger

SHREVEPORT, La. (BP) — The recommendations of the Executive Committee in the "Covenant for a New Century" should not change the working relationship the SBC has with Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), according to the chairman of the study group which designed the proposal.

Mark Brister, chairman of a special Program and Structure Study Committee appointed by the Executive Committee, told Baptist Press March 10 the study committee has received overwhelmingly favorable feedback from Southern Baptists. However, Brister said questions and misstatements he has read in some state Baptist newspapers about the impact of the group's report suggest the need for clarification about the future role of WMU in the SBC.

Questions about the role WMU will have in the Lottie Moon Christmas and Annie Armstrong Easter offerings have been raised, Brister said. Also, why the WMU's "program" statement is not included in the

proposed SBC organizational structure has been raised, said Brister, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Shreveport, La.

In the proposal, "ministry statements" would replace "program statements" for the SBC agencies. In a footnote in the document it was noted that "ministry statements are assigned only to SBC entities governed by trustees elected by the convention. Thus, the WMU, governed by directors elected by state WMU organizations, is not assigned a ministry statement." Also, in another footnote speaking of responsibilities, the study committee stated: "We recommend that the two mission boards assume primary responsibility for promoting their own mission offerings...." These are the two places in the lengthy document where the WMU is mentioned.

Brister said the promotion of the two special offerings, "while historic," was not included in the original program statement for WMU in 1966 or any succeeding statement approved by the SBC.

The 1994 SBC organizational manual includes a program statement for WMU but with "an exceptional sentence." It states the WMU is "auxiliary to the SBC. The program statement is not binding except as the WMU consents." When it was voted on in 1966, the recommendation to accept the WMU statement noted it is "not an agency of the SBC and the (statement) would be advisory rather than binding as in the case of SBC agencies."

"While WMU has done a superlative job in promoting these mission offerings, the initiation of the offerings was influenced by the vision of the Foreign Mission Board, the Home Mission Board, as well as Woman's Missionary Union," Brister said.

The seven-member study group, Brister said, agreed churches, associations, and state conventions would continue to use the services of WMU in providing missions education as they have for decades.

Hollinger is Baptist Press director.



Twenty-three Mississippi women attended the Feb. 9-11 National Leadership Consultant Training held at the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) offices in Birmingham, Ala. They were (left to right): front row, Jennifer Smith, Jan Polk, Kay Cassibry, Linda Scafidel, Susan Beckett; second row, Jane Allison,

'Wilda Fancher, Lois Henderson, Ashley McCaleb, Lydia Nix, Joan Tyler, Marjean Patterson, Mississippi WMU executive director, Ann Collett; third row, Julia Otis, Stuart Calvert, Sandra Nash, Mississippi WMU president, Helen Price, Cheri Smith, Kathy Dickerson, Sharon Neff, Linda Davis, Sue Perry, and Jan Cossitt.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

My Sunday School class has a supper club program, where groups of four couples have dinner once a month at each other's homes. Although the dinners aren't considered Sunday School parties, they do originate in Sunday School for the purpose of getting to know each other.

At one of the recent dinners, the host couple offered wine with the meal. Some of us politely declined, but others accepted the wine. I was uncomfortable for several reasons.

One reason was that I happen to know a couple in our class are recovering alcoholics (everyone doesn't know this). I feared this might be the sanction they needed to drink "socially" again. We never know who we might be tempting beyond their control.

Another reason I was uncomfortable was because I think this is a confusing image to project to people who are new Christians and to people who don't know Christ at all. I worried that this was a bad witness and that it made us look more like the world instead of being set apart.

Because the people who served and drank the wine are my Christian brothers and sisters, I am reluctant to criticize them and make it appear I'm more spiritual than they are. That just isn't the case. How can I handle this in the future?

I have printed your letter in its entirety because you articulated so well the problems with such a situation. A good rule of thumb is, "When there is doubt — don't." We are not to be a stumbling block to others (2 Cor. 6:3). You handled the situation well and made a good statement when you refused the wine. That was the proper action; you said as much by your actions as any good sermon on this subject. Your statement was carried to the others who were present; you can be assured that the discomfort you felt was also felt by others. You can make a further statement when you are next invited to this house. Before you accept, ask if wine will be served and make your decision accordingly.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

March 23, 1995

HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM CELEBRATES 70TH ANNIVERSARY

1995 marks 70 years of effective mission support for Southern Baptists working together through the Cooperative Program. The financial plan that has undergirded worldwide efforts in evangelism, education, benevolence, and church services was first approved in 1925 during the Memphis convention.

Prior to Cooperative Program adoption, dreams of a worldwide missions network were frustrated by insufficient gifts and ineffective organization. But the ability to convert dreams into reality can be charted from the 1925 financial decision. Some people today have called the Cooperative Program a **sacred cow**, but those who know Baptist history call it a **sacred how**.

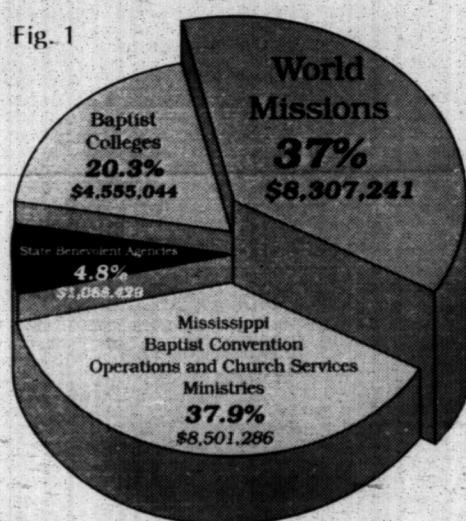
God has certainly strengthened and blessed our efforts through the Cooperative Program. But the Cooperative Program becomes even more valuable when viewed in conjunction with other financial avenues open to Southern Baptists. The comprehensive picture of mission support includes local associational giving, state missions, and designated offerings for home and foreign missions. Last year Mississippi Baptist Churches gave \$22,474,619 through the

Cooperative Program which was allocated according to the basic divisions indicated in pie graph below (see figure #1.) Our churches also gave \$11,631,031 through special offerings to mission causes as can be seen in the second pie graph (see figure #2.) These figures do not include church sponsored mission projects or the costs of participating in mission partnerships through the state convention.

A composite picture of 1994 financial support for missions looks something like the bar graph below which combines data from Cooperative Program giving and other special offerings channeled through the Mississippi Baptist Convention (see figure #3.) All in all we can be proud of the generosity of our people who have taken to heart the call to mission support from Christ Jesus, our Lord.

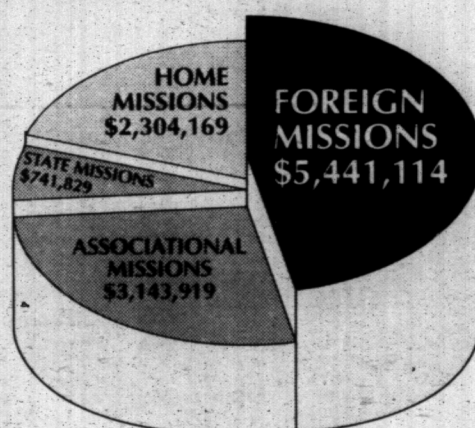
Churches are encouraged to celebrate Cooperative Program Sunday, April 9, 1995. Sample posters and bulletin inserts have been mailed to church leaders. A special prayer guide entitled: **Mississippi Missionaries of the Month** and a new drama called: **A Dream Come True** are available at no cost from the Stewardship Department, (800) 748-1651, to help enrich your church's observance of Cooperative Program Day.

Fig. 1



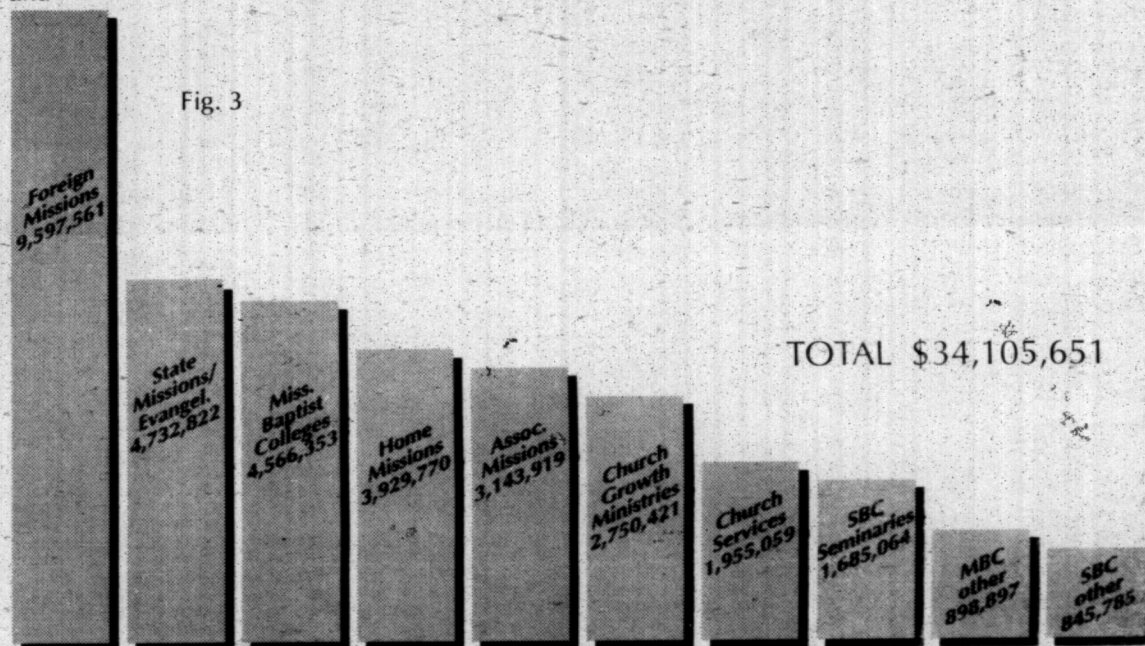
MBC BUDGET GOAL \$22,452,000

Fig. 2



TOTAL \$11,631,031

Fig. 3



Pray this day...

April 1-15

PRAYER MINISTRY OFFICE

P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205-0530
Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904
Mississippi PrayerLine
1-800-787-PRAY

Missionary Kids, a love name we use for children of missionaries... beginning this month we will include the MK birthdays which we have been able to secure and place on an MK birthday calendar. If your MK is not on here on the birthday, it will be because we have not had it sent in as an addition or correction. Hopefully, in a few weeks the list will be completely correct! The entire MK calendar may be ordered at no cost from the Prayer Ministry Office... Wilda Fancher, Coordinator

for Tom Thurman, missionary in Bangladesh, as he recovers from a stab wound in his hand, inflicted during an attempted robbery; thank God that a sand truck appeared and interrupted the attack

for Ruth and Kenneth Bailey in Bolivia - for his health, especially his back problems; for his parents, his Dad has cancer; for his work with the Seminary; for their children Andrea, 5, and Sonya, 13	for Cathy and Clifton Curtis in Burkina Faso, that the Bisa people will be receptive to the JESUS film in upcoming evangelistic campaigns; that their agricultural projects will open doors to share the gospel	MK birthday: Jennifer L. Johnston, 4-4-83 Caixa Postal 375 64001-970 Teresina, PI Brazil Parents: F. Vincent and Sharon B. Conference/Encampment	MK birthday: Katherine M. Hammack 4-5-86 169 Boundary St. Kowloon, Hong Kong Parents: K. Duane and Sandy L. Social Ministry	for Teresa and Don Bolls in Niger Republic, West Africa, as they enjoy the house that Lottie Moon built! They were living in a mud house out in the bush, having to "tote" water. Now they have a house and inside plumbing, and they are grateful for our gifts to LMCO.	for Pandy Pass of Olive Branch, who will join the Bolls this year as a journeyman and help them to expand their work beyond the 16 villages where they now have something going	for young adult children of missionaries (several missionaries have included this in their prayer requests) who are on their own and find hundreds or thousands of miles between them and parents... phone service is not always readily available between them
for church staffs as they continue to plan for Easter, for the many people who will attend church on Easter	for the country of Honduras as the JESUS film is used with the Mesquite people	for the members of the Mississippi legislature from your area	for victims of domestic violence	for folks who work in centers providing shelter to victims of such abuse	for enough volunteers to help carry the loads at such shelters	MK birthdays: Joel K. and Seth R. Glaze 4-15-81 Bolanos 141 1407 Buenos Aires, Argentina Parents: David J. and Gloria M. Media Promotion

1994 COOPERATIVE PROGRESS

JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 1994

CP All				CP All				CP All				CP All								
Gifts		Other		Total	Gifts		Other		Total	Gifts		Other		Total	Gifts		Other		Total	
ADAMS																				
BETH	1,028.66	523.60	1,552.26	BENTLEY	10.00	10.00	20.00	TRINITY	4,000.00	1,997.80	5,997.80	FBC BILOXI	128,062.11	56,852.49	184,914.60	HUMPHREYS	3,117.10	3,025.90	6,143.00	PARK H
CALVARY	4,479.69	2,474.79	6,954.48	BETHANY	10,320.00	14,403.35	24,723.35	WEST END	21,736.15	5,566.19	27,302.34	FBC DELISLE	1,281.00	435.55	1,716.55	BEULAH	2,687.22	1,234.83	3,922.05	PECAN
CLIFF TEMPLE	18,284.06	9,017.36	27,301.42	BIG CREEK	13,168.41	10,414.76	23,583.17		138,065.55	60,973.56	199,039.11	FBC GULFPORT	119,264.60	65,926.88	185,191.48	CALVARY	9,228.95	8,611.60	17,840.55	PINE G
CLOVERDALE	9,990.05	7,706.18	17,696.23	BRADFORD CHAPEL	2,210.28	4,900.41	7,110.69	COPIAH	2,537.52	600.00	3,137.52	FBC LONG BEACH	48,880.95	28,441.91	77,322.86	EASTSIDE	25,415.27	26,329.43	51,744.70	PLAINW
CRANFIELD	1,121.10	1,018.81	2,139.91	CALVARY	1,635.07	65.00	1,700.07	ANTIOCH	4,657.07	3,768.31	8,425.38	FBC LYMAN	12,691.11	5,812.18	18,503.29	FBC BELZONI	2,515.27	26,329.43	28,844.70	PLEASAN
FBC NACHEZ	43,706.87	31,625.41	75,332.28	COLLEGE HILL	1,792.71	1,287.35	3,080.06	BETHEL	3,983.93	938.93	4,922.86	FBC MCHENRY	1,044.31	1,160.78	2,205.09	FBC ISOLA	6,529.26	5,529.70	12,058.96	SALEM
IMMANUEL	11,560.71	7,297.35	18,858.06	CONCORD	3,146.26	3,780.17	6,926.43	COUNTY LINE	784.15	1,221.52	2,005.67	FBC WAVELAND	915.00	1,486.30	2,401.30	FBC LOUISE	1,598.03	765.00	2,363.03	SAND H
MORGANTOWN	17,130.61	7,161.10	24,291.71	DERMA	26,658.71	8,700.15	35,358.86	DAMASCUS	437.37	784.15	1,221.52	FBC WIGGINS	46,151.02	14,646.67	60,797.69	GOODEN LAKE	4,387.00	3,753.31	8,140.31	SANDEI
PARKWAY	38,693.31	11,686.66	50,379.97	DRIVERS FLAT	300.00	416.94	716.00	FBC CRYSTAL SPRINGS	65,715.79	32,906.84	98,622.63	FERNWOOD	2,590.60	1,300.87	3,891.47	SILVER CITY	2,821.71	555.00	3,376.71	SECON
SOUTHERN HILLS	1,794.83	986.82	2,781.65	DUNCAN HILL	495.00	942.36	1,437.36	FBC HAZLEHURST	32,605.99	20,909.83	53,515.82	FIRST SOU PEARLINGTON	4,657.64	1,847.00	6,504.64				SHELTO	
SPRINGFIELD	3,287.20	1,369.10	4,656.30	ELLARD	2,552.02	1,558.00	4,110.02	GALLIE	300.00	150.00	450.00	GRACE MEMORIAL	28,580.87	11,074.95	39,655.82	ANTIOCH	1,833.82	500.00	2,333.82	TALLAH
STANTON	8,591.80	5,886.17	14,477.97	FBC BRUCE	56,883.41	25,550.05	82,433.46	GALLMAN	5,171.00	6,538.98	11,709.98	GRACE TEMPLE	118.00	77.00	195.00	BETHANY	200.00	100.00	300.00	TRINITY
WASHINGTON	24,847.72	10,582.97	35,430.69	FBC CALHOUN CITY	52,044.68	21,217.46	73,262.14	GATESVILLE	772.57	621.51	1,394.08	GULF GARDENS	2,846.96	15.00	2,861.96	DORSEY	1,547.15	570.00	2,117.15	TUCKER
	184,516.61	97,336.32	281,852.93	FBC VARDAMAN	22,556.65	11,214.23	33,770.88	GEORGETOWN	6,444.04	8,665.87	15,109.91	GULFPORT HEIGHTS	2,669.33	491.00	3,160.33	EVERGREEN	760.12	348.75	1,108.87	UNITY
ALCORN																				
ANTIOCH	3,531.99	5,072.34	8,604.33	LANTRIP	100.00	200.00	300.00	HIGHLAND	9,113.86	6,150.97	15,264.83	HANDSBORO	1,879.11	8,610.74	10,489.85	FAIRVIEW		1,696.16	1,696.16	WEST E
BETHLEHEM	4,277.09	8,427.22	12,704.31	LOYD	100.00	125.00	225.00	HOPEWELL	1,347.58	1,035.94	2,383.52	HIGHLAND	2,660.05	54.00	2,714.05	FBC FULTON	18,322.87	8,785.13	27,108.00	WILDW
CALVARY	3,457.26	4,458.22	7,915.48	MACEDONIA	2,401.76	1,371.21	3,772.97	NEW PROVIDENCE	2,759.00	1,555.00	4,314.00	HUBSON-KROHN ROAD	880.37	441.48	1,321.85	KIRKVILLE	2,276.90	1,588.07	3,864.97	
COUNTY LINE	660.00	1,900.00	2,560.00	MIDWAY	1,827.27	1,371.21	3,198.48	NEW ZION	16,481.14	20,734.72	37,215.86	INTERNATIONAL MISSION	803.41	375.80	1,179.21	LAKELAND	2,300.00	1,324.00	3,624.00	
DANVILLE	308.60	308.60	617.20	MT COMFORT	2,681.88	2,766.17	5,448.05	PEARL VALLEY	4,600.94	4,756.59	9,357.53	KITTITWAKE	1,304.00	1,220.00	2,524.00	MORNING VIEW	400.00	850.00	1,250.00	
EAST CORINTH	9,510.79	5,755.94	15,266.73	MT MORIAH	12,188.47	9,446.38	21,634.85	PILGRIMS REST	7,026.31	5,694.47	12,720.78	KOREAN MISSION	450.00	450.00	900.00	NEW HOME	2,715.21	2,371.91	5,087.12	
FBC BIGGERSVILLE	2,786.25	2,646.40	5,432.65	MT TABOR	302.69	914.68	1,217.37	PINE BLUFF	930.00	930.00	1,860.00	LAKESHORE	181.87	547.93	729.80	POPLAR SPRINGS	1,132.82	1,692.45	2,825.27	BLUFF
FBC CORINTH	80,042.61	28,376.41	108,419.02	NEW HOPE	2,013.67	2,564.85	4,578.52	POPLAR SPRINGS	1,472.00	2,209.00	3,681.00	LIZANA	2,450.93	248.59	2,699.52	PROVIDENCE	2,344.27	162.00	2,506.27	CENTE
GLENDAL	12,403.00	6,411.00	18,814.00	NEW PROVIDENCE	2,532.02	3,463.50	5,995.52	ROCKY HILL	527.46	676.41	1,203.87	MICHAEL MEMORIAL	26,754.99	9,320.65	36,075.64	RIVERHILL	3,702.58	768.63	4,471.21	CORIN
HINKLE	6,402.93	4,471.10	10,874.03	OAK GROVE	1,069.00	668.00	1,737.00	SARDIS	1,843.02	5,298.22	7,141.24	NEW HOPE	1,115.06	2,068.22	3,183.28	SALEM	4,122.95	8,326.01	12,438.96	DEKAL
HOLLY	8,155.61	7,775.01	15,930.62	OLD TOWN	4,190.00	4,533.00	8,723.00	SHADY GROVE	6,317.82	4,966.44	11,284.26	NORTH HILLS MSN	1,156.65	5,661.54	6,818.19	SHILOH	1,020.62	371.12	1,391.74	CORIN
JACINTO	1,391.98	737.57	2,129.55	PARKER	1,703.93	340.77	2,044.70	SMYRNA	2,844.00	3,780.00	6,624.00	NORTH LONG BEACH	5,013.43	876.00	5,889.43	TRINITY	19,273.60	14,084.09	33,357.69	LIBERT
KEMPS CHAPEL	1,162.52	1,265.45	2,427.97	PILGRIMS REST	115.00	135.00	250.00	SPRING HILL	2,898.00	1,502.10	4,400.10	OLIVE	2,702.51	1,223.58	3,926.09				SALEM	
KENDRICK	1,137.81	1,187.65	2,325.46	PITTSBORO	6,654.10	5,235.11	11,889.21	STRONG HOPE	12,087.00	6,675.90	18,762.90	PASS ROAD	400.00	665.82	1,065.82	JACKSON	25,105.90	23,389.85	48,495.75	SCOO
KOSSUTH FIRST	6,157.20	6,153.38	12,310.58	PLEASANT HILL	7,098.41	4,457.36	11,555.77	SYLVARENA	4,920.00	2,337.15	7,257.15	PERKINSON	12,795.66	7,744.88	20,540.54	ARLINGTON HGTS	14,786.63	7,282.42	22,069.05	UNION
LIBERTY HILL	1,079.00		1,079.00	PLEASANT RIDGE	2,010.00	3,227.33	5,237.33	WESSON	18,321.64	20,306.00	38,627.64	POPPS FERRY	1,451.05	1,767.81	3,218.86	BELLE FOUNTAIN	1,421.27	2,566.67	3,987.94	VARDAM
LONE OAK		1,151.00	1,151.00	POPLAR SPRINGS	890.20	1,092.07	1,982.27	WESTSIDE	5,558.54	2,279.27	7,837.81	PRIMERA IGLESIA				CALVARY	13,019.81	9,607.23	22,627.04	WAHA
LO																				

DECEMBER 31

CP All				CP All				CP All				CP All				CP All			
Gifts			Other	Total	Gifts			Other	Total	Gifts			Other	Total	Gifts			Other	Total
PARK HAVEN	768.46	790.23	1,558.69	OAKVALE	1,342.80	1,387.40	2,730.20	BROOKWAY	3,274.04	589.00	3,863.04	FBC ABERDEEN	49,801.10	51,873.21	101,674.31	CEDAR VIEW	6,005.54	1,933.89	7,939.43
PECAN GROVE	1,500.00	931.00	2,431.00	OLD SILVER CREEK	5,646.67	4,435.40	10,082.07	CALVARY	8,058.24	5,306.69	13,364.93	FBC AMORY	116,678.75	85,580.45	202,259.20	CENTER HILL	8.00	50.00	58.00
PINE GROVE	11,154.89	8,673.86	19,828.75	PROVIDENCE	5,327.83	4,375.59	9,703.42	CENTRAL	32,765.72	11,738.99	44,504.71	FBC ATTAM	1,467.96	1,120.94	2,588.90	CHURCH ROAD	6,626.13	1,697.32	8,323.45
PLAINWAY	14,381.12	8,824.20	23,205.32	RIVERSIDE	1,420.62	1,058.88	2,479.50	CLEAR BRANCH	5,558.00	2,909.00	8,467.00	FRIENDSHIP	1,821.56	8,016.26	9,837.82	COLONIAL HILLS	78,642.12	18,585.99	97,228.11
PLEASANT HOME	13,775.22	5,082.54	18,857.76	SAULS VALLEY	1,582.31	4,364.52	5,946.83	EAST LINCOLN	990.40	834.42	1,824.82	GRACE CHAPEL	1,144.13	127.11	1,271.24	EBENEZER HERMANO	5,606.11	1,340.68	6,946.79
SALEM HEIGHTS	19,050.71	1,513.00	20,563.71	SHALOM	1,591.05	797.75	2,388.80	EASTHAVEN	39,677.30	10,797.55	50,474.85	GREENWOOD SPRINGS	121.00	98.00	219.00	EBENEZER SENATORIA	8,108.60	701.52	8,810.12
SAND HILL	9,335.33	1,709.88	11,045.21	SHILOH	27,740.80	12,482.37	40,223.17	FAIRVIEW	20,863.83	7,866.93	28,730.76	GREGORY CHAPEL	324.80	324.80	649.60	EVANSVILLE	11,835.75	3,658.98	15,494.73
SANDERSVILLE	23,590.79	4,485.25	28,076.04	TOPEKA	4,009.63	5,420.79	9,430.42	FBC BROOKHAVEN	124,351.45	285,378.47	409,729.92	HAMILTON	9,961.52	3,204.05	13,165.57	FAIRHAVEN	10,834.76	4,649.35	15,484.11
SECOND AVENUE	7,200.00	8,824.30	16,124.30	WANILLA	2,554.54	1,019.93	3,574.47	FRIENDSHIP	15,874.00	10,295.70	26,169.70	JONES CHAPEL	2,855.75	2,134.05	4,989.80	FBC COLDWATER	55,867.38	19,039.41	74,906.79
SHELTON	5,012.00	1,237.57	6,249.57		224,678.57	8,339.22	31,017.79	GUM GROVE	18,459.10	13,971.34	32,430.44	LAKESIDE		357.00	357.00	FBC DAYS	5,770.81	3,635.00	9,405.81
SUMMERLAND	15,080.98	5,265.69	20,346.67	LEAKE				HALBERT HEIGHTS	1,103.68	1,217.77	2,321.45	LIBERTY	3,317.00	3,494.00	6,811.00	FBC EUDORA	10,650.00	5,127.50	15,777.50
TALLAHOMA	28,171.00	132.00	28,303.00	BETHEL	600.00	1,300.00	1,900.00	HARMONY	629.02	729.02	1,358.04	MEADOWOOD	38,243.31	20,123.60	58,366.91	FBC HORN LAKE	50,429.25	14,814.91	65,244.16
TRINITY	23,571.55	13,266.02	36,837.57	CEDAR GROVE	50.00	50.00	100.00	HELUCKS RETREAT	11,000.00	15,018.07	26,018.07	NEW HOPE	2,929.87	3,181.00	6,110.87	FBC NESBIT	47,957.21	6,798.67	54,755.88
TUCKERS CROSSING	15,552.97	6,835.50	22,388.47	CONWAY		335.00	335.00	HOLLY SPRINGS	1,862.00	157.00	2,019.00	NEW PROSPECT	6,574.00	7,059.00	13,633.00	FBC OLIVE BRANCH	48,116.04	20,384.65	68,500.69
UNITY	7,623.91	4,000.00	11,623.91	CORINTH	5,519.11	10,093.24	15,612.35	LITTLE BALAH	1,556.12	2,460.97	4,017.09	ROCKY SPRINGS		2,733.56	2,733.56	FBC SENATORIA	38,302.09	26,824.72	65,126.81
WEST ELLISVILLE	31,015.47	16,815.32	47,830.79	EMMANUEL	2,035.30	2,649.39	4,684.69	MACEDONIA	37,303.20	16,261.66	53,564.86	SMITHVILLE	9,184.29	8,272.51	17,456.80	FBC SOUTHAVER	13,819.70	2,148.60	15,968.30
WEST LAUREL	37,195.89	11,394.87	48,590.76	FBC CARTHAGE	26,400.00	9,866.37	36,266.37	MISSION HILL	1,791.75	1,350.32	3,142.07	SOUTH NETTLETON	2,405.85	3,033.90	5,439.75	FLAG LAKE	3,000.33	1,291.58	4,291.91
WILDWOOD	13,174.30	5,742.58	18,916.88	FBC FRENEY	2,862.53	5,860.72	8,723.25	MOAKS CREEK	7,693.31	7,358.20	15,051.53	SOUTHSIDE	11,315.35	4,298.99	15,614.34	GRAYCREEK	29,052.78	1,629.08	30,681.86
	743,425.75	390,940.70	1,134,366.45	GOOD HOPE	2,525.20	2,022.00	4,547.20	MONTGOMERY	8,738.05	5,121.13	13,859.18	SPUNGLE	2,723.21	551.35	3,274.56	GREENBROOK	1,250.00	5,200.28	6,450.28
MEMBER				LENA	6,156.67	5,499.44	11,656.11	MT MORIAH	8,473.46	21,261.73	29,735.19	TRINITY	2,427.50	4,081.00	6,508.50	HERNANDO	55,084.65	22,474.90	77,559.55
BAY SPRINGS	2,212.35	766.65	2,979.00	MADDERN	8,522.48	8,756.73	17,279.21	MT PLEASANT	6,991.17	2,523.05	9,514.22	VICTORY		696.50	696.50	HICKORY GROVE	1,212.06	4,074.14	5,286.20
BLACKWATER	4,525.51	4,544.46	9,069.97	MIDWAY	893.40	530.08	1,423.48	MT ZION	13,233.16	6,771.76	20,004.92		308,712.91	237,897.32	546,610.23	HIGHLAND	19,245.51	19,590.57	38,836.08
BLUFF SPRINGS	1,885.00	930.00	2,815.00	MT CARMEL	480.00	1,208.29	1,688.29	NEW PROSPECT	24,500.95	7,201.98	31,702.93	BETHLEHEM	2,335.72	3,050.97	5,386.69	IMMANUEL	20,607.00	1,502.20	22,109.20
CENTER RIDGE	7,000.00	4,243.00	11,243.00	MT ZION	4,190.27	1,597.25	5,787.52	PEARL HAVEN	7,910.96	2,363.49	10,274.45	BETHSAIDA	18,877.50	17,714.23	36,591.73	LAKE FOREST	1,937.81	4,901.03	6,838.84
CORINTH	1,032.29	778.66	1,810.95	NEW HOPE	1,233.25	3,129.25	4,362.50	PHILADELPHIA	2,656.74	2,003.49	4,660.23	DUCK HILL	21,970.06	7,093.85	29,063.91	LONGVIEW HEIGHTS	27,130.47	13,407.91	40,538.38
DEKALB	8,776.38	7,306.85	16,083.23	NEW PROSPECT	127.94	1,806.41	1,934.35	PLEASANT GROVE	16,510.66	13,847.33	30,357.99	FBC WINONA	136,727.78	43,585.97	180,313.75	LOOXAHOMA	10,525.50	3,493.07	14,018.57
LIBERTY	3,235.09	2,050.00	5,285.09	NEW PROVIDENCE	885.00	1,025.00	1,910.00	PLEASANT HILL	8,598.31	8,697.53	17,295.84	HEBRON	2,578.30	3,764.51	6,342.81	MACEDONIA	6,000.00	2,223.00	8,223.00
SALEM	2,400.00	1,695.00	4,095.00	NEW ZION	2,833.92	1,775.00	4,608.92	RUTH	1,453.90	1,691.55	3,145.45	KILMICHAEL	11,822.96	4,563.83	16,386.79	MEADOW BROOK	5,645.95	1,429.51	7,075.46
SCOOBA	12,424.31	6,584.53	19,008.84	PLEASANT HILL	2,693.06	3,835.73	6,528.79	SHADY GROVE	7,522.80	3,185.12	10,707.92	MISSION	-394.29	180.26	574.55	MINERAL WELLS	6,235.29	1,237.50	7,472.79
SUNSHINE	2,382.66	695.66	3,078.32	RENFRO	151.12	115.00	266.12	SOUTHWAY	5,698.23	6,119.89	11,818.12	MT WINONA	31,435.56	14,706.83	46,142.39	MT MANNA	4,745.70	6,745.50	11,491.20
UNION HILL	1,234.89	310.17	1,545.06	ROCKY POINT	134.28	115.00	249.28	TOPOSA	2,305.55	1,147.16	3,452.71	PINE FOREST	241.00	476.00	717.00	MT ZION DESOTO	2,325.06	1,229.93	3,554.99
VARDAMAN	786.29	245.00	1,031.29	SALEM	1,529.27	298.50	1,827.77	UNION	3,670.10	2,197.69	5,867.79	POPULAR CREEK NATIONS	1,574.85	1,173.50	2,748.35	MT ZION TATE	24,724.22	13,596.14	38,320.36
WAHALAK	1,338.00	700.00	2,038.00	SPRINGFIELD	541.25	1,275.51	1,816.77	UNION HALL	4,833.33	4,256.25	9,089.58	POPLAR SPRINGS	1,927.93	2,567.93	4,495.86	NEW GARDEN	891.00	940.00	1,831.00
WEST KEMPER	2,000.00	120,500	122,500	STANDING PINE	1,546.17	1,870.63	3,416.80	WELLMAN	6,632.05	4,636.01	11,268.06	SCOTLAND	7,072.46	5,761.26	12,833.72	NEW PROSPECT	7,938.57	4,460.63	12,399.20
	51,232.77	32,054.98	83,287.75	SUNRISE	3,107.00	7,409.00	10,516.00		487,088.42	503,554.02	990,642.44	STEWART	1,487.18	4,026.19	5,513.37	OAK GROVE	1,234.05	1,465.60	2,699.65
LAFAYETTE				THOMASTOWN	3,737.76	3,909.91	7,647.67	LOWRIDERS				TRI-COUNTY		184.79	184.79	PARKWAY	2,328.63	609.00	2,937.63
ANCHOR	21,560.80	15,467.55	37,028.35	TRINITY	11,056.40	8,152.85	19,209.25	ANTIOCH	24,138.59	3,377.90	27,516.49	UNITY	300.00	2,904.00	3,204.00	PLEASANT HILL	7,022.69	2,341.01	9,363.70
CALVARY	1,200.00	919.64	2,119.64	TUSCULOA	900.00	1,875.00	2,775.00	ARTESIA	6,417.18	144.00	6,561.18		238,745.59	112,054.12	350,799.71	SARAH	467.00	309.00	776.00
CLEAR CREEK	14,098.28	7,844.93	22,943.21	WALNUT GROVE	6,546.96	7,196.51	13,743.47	BETHEL	7,113.41	2,210.30	9,323.71	NESHOBA				SOUTHCREEK	1,620.37	1,120.47	2,740.84
COLLEGE HILL HEIGHTS	7,098.10	7,257.09	14,355.19	WIGGINS	1,187.14	1,345.14	2,532.28	BORDER SPRINGS	9,205.23	3,198.82	12,404.05	ANTIOCH	8,904.00	4,732.18	13,636.18	STRAYHORN	6,652.34	4,650.35	11,302.69
DELAWARE	1,306.50	1,306.50	2,613.00		103,373.68	95,621.31	198,994.99	CALVARY	20,615.00	6,315.86	26,930.86	BEACON STREET	4,174.92	10,187.76	14,362.68	TRINITY - HERNANDO	1,571.41	874.00	2,445.41
DENMARK	377.31	183.24	560.55	LEBANON	2,561.71	2,034.20	4,595.91	CANAAN	844.45	2,382.13	3,226.58	BEAT LINE	1,500.00	3,047.53	4,547.53	TRINITY - SOUTHAVER	49,472.78	43,336.61	92,809.39
FBC ABERDEEN	9,350.80	6,463.00	15,813.80	BEACON	9,144.00	6,121.25	15,265.25	COMMUNITY	3,742.21	2,303.91	6,046.12	BEAT LINE	1,500.00	3,047.53	4,547.53	TWIN LAKES	5,917.54	2,380.36	8,297.90
FBC OXFORD	78,000.00	51,564.65	129,564.65	CALVARY	39,403.40	16,369.63	55,773.03	EAST END	51,498.96	15,204.00	66,702.96	BETHSAIDA	1,366.70	7,556.43	8,923.13	TYRO	816.76	339.00	1,155.76
HARMONTOWN	21,542.57	9,543.58	31,086.15	CARTERVILLE	4,420.00	3,097.25	7,517.25	FAIRVIEW	120,184.36	40,477.55	160,661.91	BOND	4,812.30	2,921.00	7,733.30	WYATTE	84,303.82	5,566.28	89,870.10
NEW ELBETH	3,539.04	5,257.88	8,796.92	CRESTVIEW	22,498.40	25,153.14	47,651.54	FBC COLUMBUS	187,764.71	177,077.42	364,842.13	COLDWATER	1,462.34	3,008.29	4,470.63				
NEW HOPE	1,955.97	300.00	2,255.97	DIXIE	1,314.61	1,426.74	2,741.35	FBC COLUMBUS	2,233.97	558.47	2,792.44	COUNTY LINE	660.62	4,750.68	5,411.30				
NEW PROSPECT	16,725.18	4,645.00	21,370.18	EASTABUCHIE	1,314.61	1,426.74	2,741.35	IMMANUEL	20,246.80	7,499.94	27,746.74	EAST PHILADELPHIA	14,003.50	10,930.41	24,933.91	NOXBEE	9,437.60	5,098.45	14,536.05
NORTH OXFORD	79,466.40	37,684.54	117,150.94	FBC BROOKLYN	6,694.59	3,610.86	10,305.45	KOLOLA SPRINGS	10,357.82	4,936.62	15,294.44	FBC PHILADELPHIA	43,052.30	46,881.53	89,933.83	BROOKVILLE	2,100.00	2,450.00	4,550.00
OLD UNION	96.00	769.00	865.00	FBC CARNES	2,381.00	794.00	3,175.00	MCBEE	676.23	397.41	1,073.64	FELLOWSHIP	567.13	997.13	1,564.26	CALVARY MACON	750.00	850.00	1,600.00
PARIS	226.00	654.00	880.00	FBC GLENDALE	27,640.62	16,218.55	43,859.17	MT VERNON	31,946.46	15,760.40	47,706.86	GOOD HOPE	2,686.54	3,902.93	6,589.47	CONCORD	10,750.00	10,751.00	21,501.00
PHILADELPHIA	768.34	4,417.84	5,186.18	FBC HATTIESBURG	132,328.96	81,720.15	214,049.11	MT ZION	36,467.45										

CP All				CP All				CP All				CP All				CP All							
Gifts		Other		Total		Gifts		Other		Total		Gifts		Other		Total		Gifts		Other		Total	
WEST UNION	4,102.69	5,128.39	9,231.08	CLEARY	22,211.23	12,723.72	34,934.95	STONEWALL	332.83	158.90	491.73	FREDONIA	7,918.14	7,134.48	15,052.62	POPLAR/FLAT	5,669.00	4,696.15	10,365.15				
WHITE SAND	2,456.10	3,512.48	5,968.58	CONCORD	7,880.34	3,556.54	11,436.88	STRONG RIVER	350.00	841.14	1,191.14	GLENFIELD	2,437.20	1,200.29	3,637.49	SHILOH	3,556.52	3,684.45	7,240.97				
	393,368.22	240,428.19	633,796.41	COUNTY LINE	608.26	1,562.47	2,170.73	WEATHERSBY	1,046.36	1,127.51	2,173.87	HARMONY	13,041.82	1,888.30	14,930.12	SINGLETON	840.59	1,277.59	2,118.18				
PERRY				CROSSROADS	8,130.96	4,538.37	12,669.33		256,945.04	192,248.79	449,193.83	HILLCREST	24,715.98	29,291.47	54,007.45	SOUTH LOUISVILLE	13,504.98	4,578.30	18,083.28				
ARLINGTON	2,103.80	308.00	2,411.80	CROSSGATES	115,651.15	29,391.70	145,042.85	SMITH			640.00	INGOMAR	20,153.30	19,868.98	40,022.28	UNION RIDGE	1,000.00	935.00	1,935.00				
BETHEL		223.00	223.00	CROSSVIEW	3,623.37	3,877.12	7,500.49	ACTS			640.00	JERICHO	13,277.68	6,787.33	20,065.01	WESS CHAPEL	4,076.43	5,418.43	9,494.86				
BREWER	2,506.38	1,507.39	4,013.77	DAY STAR	4,200.00	6,123.53	10,323.53	BEAVER DAM	291.00		291.00	KEOWNVILLE	4,863.37	1,927.86	6,791.23	WEST END	262.50	1,491.50	1,754.00				
BUCK CREEK	635.00	620.00	1,255.00	DRY CREEK	2,781.22	1,271.83	4,053.05	BETHEL	775.00		775.00	LIBERTY	1,300.00	554.70	1,854.70	WINSTON	221.05	173.56	394.61				
CALVARY	931.81	648.10	1,579.91	EASTHAVEN	1,694.40	462.00	2,156.40	BURNS	2,815.22	959.32	3,774.54	LOCUST GROVE	250.00	76.00	326.00		256,110.27	168,212.25	424,322.52				
FBC BEAUMONT	7,428.37	6,885.96	14,314.33	EASTSIDE PEARL	26,945.97	9,367.44	36,313.41	CENTER HILL		314.82	314.82	MACEDONIA	15,011.00	9,245.63	24,256.63	YALOBUSHA							
FBC NEW AUGUSTA	8,758.00	3,838.50	12,596.50	FBC BRANDON	358,182.61	78,164.75	436,347.36	CLEAR CREEK	607.45	205.30	812.75	MARTIN	7,127.41	2,871.21	9,998.62	BETHEL	10,696.00	6,012.00	16,708.00				
FBC RICHTON	36,069.64	17,423.11	53,492.75	FBC FANNIN	12,183.59	4,531.32	16,714.91	CLEAR SPRINGS	137.17	259.00	396.17	MOSS HILL	3,272.03	1,573.75	4,845.78	CALVARY	2,345.41	1,576.96	3,922.37				
FBC RUNNELSTOWN	7,325.28	4,264.99	11,590.27	FBC FLORENCE	42,026.86	30,367.05	72,393.91	CONCORD	1,522.09		1,522.09	MT GILEAD	25.00		25.00	CAMP GROUND	8,977.93	5,968.72	14,946.65				
GOOD HOPE		3,133.00	3,133.00	FBC FLOWOOD	9,861.75	6,968.35	16,830.10	CORINTH	675.00		675.00	MYRTLE	9,026.62	3,235.17	12,261.79	CLEAR SPRINGS	260.00	445.00	705.00				
INDIAN SPRINGS	9,873.24	7,920.71	17,793.95	FBC PEARL	49,022.83	21,717.74	70,740.57	FBC MIZE	4,291.89	4,202.36	8,494.25	NEELY MEMORIAL	4,328.92	130.00	4,458.92	ELAM	1,793.57	428.00	2,221.57				
JANICE	2,810.84	977.00	3,787.84	FBC RICHLAND	28,689.26	9,081.47	37,770.73	FBC POLKVILLE	4,858.21	4,500.00	9,358.21	NEW HARMONY	1,990.00	6,253.00	8,243.00	FAITH		4,334.35	4,334.35				
LOOP ROAD	663.65	62.83	726.48	GALILEE	270.00	515.00	785.00	FBC RALEIGH	26,310.33	20,283.02	46,593.35	NEW HOPE	25.00		25.00	FBC COFFEEVILLE	39,474.05	12,024.60	51,498.65				
MEMORIAL	2,284.58	378.00	2,662.58	GRANDVIEW	8,831.39	7,351.55	16,182.94	FBC TAYLORSVILLE	20,815.25	17,317.32	38,132.57	NORTH OAK GROVE	900.00	312.00	1,212.00	FBC WATER VALLEY	30,002.54	49,682.93	79,685.47				
SEMINARY	366.36		366.36	HICKORY RIDGE	2,838.00	3,309.00	6,147.00	FELLOWSHIP	1,368.27	1,297.27	2,665.54	NORTHSIDE	2,324.80	1,799.69	4,124.49	FRIENDSHIP	1,917.12	225.00	2,142.12				
THOMPSON HILL MSN	620.31	939.37	1,559.68	JOHNS	4,446.95	3,389.82	7,836.77	GOODWATER	696.00	869.00	1,565.00	OAK HILL	1,505.95	955.00	2,460.95	HOPEWELL	105.00	462.00	567.00				
UNION	416.95	1,570.30	1,987.25	LAKE HARBOR	5,182.47	2,712.43	7,894.90	HARMONY	3,147.81	630.00	3,777.81	OAK VIEW	100.00		100.00	NEW HOPE	340.00	1,248.30	1,588.30				
	82,794.21	50,700.26	133,494.47	LEESBURG	12,621.37	4,338.15	16,959.52	HIGH HILL	75.00		75.00	OLD OAK GROVE	1,324.87	1,904.36	3,229.23	O TUCKALOFA	5,563.45	2,769.13	8,332.58				
PIKE				LIBERTY	3,800.08	1,770.00	5,570.08	LEAF RIVER	6,073.58	3,525.30	9,598.88	PARKS	200.00		200.00	OAKLAND	2,261.63	3,330.20	5,591.83				
BALA CHITTO	1,727.01	900.00	2,627.01	MC LAURIN HEIGHTS	54,396.04	23,409.12	77,805.16	LIBERTY	1,280.87	1,280.87	2,561.74	PLEASANT DALE	925.10	641.73	1,566.83	PINE GROVE	1,495.00	3,125.00	4,620.00				
BLUFF SPRINGS	2,671.45	2,055.62	4,727.07	MEADOW GROVE	9,948.31	7,677.55	17,625.86	LORENA	835.03	729.16	1,564.19	PLEASANT HILL	12,669.05	11,485.21	23,854.26	SYLVIA RENA	8,969.87	5,220.63	14,190.50				
BOGUE CHITTO	6,527.21	2,162.22	8,689.43	MOUNTAIN CREEK	3,339.40	2,350.90	5,690.30	MT CARMEL	1,414.16	672.09	2,086.25	PLEASANT RIDGE	8,803.75	11,503.97	20,307.72	TILLATOBIA	440.00	780.75	1,220.75				
CALVARY	6,455.88	2,445.69	8,901.57	MT PISGAH	8,944.48	6,338.46	15,282.94	MT PLEASANT	1,203.21	537.85	1,741.06	POOLEVILLE	160.47		160.47	WAYSIDE	4,237.59	2,416.23	6,653.82				
CENTRAL	43,673.14	11,582.18	55,255.32	MT ZION	9,515.43	7,567.00	17,082.43	MT ZION	1,250.00	2,704.00	3,954.00	TEMPLE	8,034.00	2,853.30	10,887.30		118,879.16	100,049.80	218,928.96				
EAST MCCOMB	24,807.53	8,021.16	32,828.69	OAKDALE	4,534.66	3,307.85	7,842.51	NEW HOME	4,057.12	4,769.95	8,827.07	WALLERVILLE	8,260.83	4,719.00	12,979.83	YAZOO							
EAST UNION	1,643.18	1,430.00	3,073.18	PARK PLACE	35,096.57	71,868.83	106,965.40	NEW SARDIS	2,343.67	3,002.24	5,345.91	WEST TALLAHATCHIE	3,273.37	3,314.78	6,588.15	BENTON	6,247.88	2,273.00	8,520.88				
FBC MAGNOLIA	34,376.14	8,587.67	42,963.81	PAUL TRUITT MEMORIAL	17,550.44	8,187.52	25,737.96	OAK GROVE	2,990.15	8,233.35	11,223.50	ZION HILL	2,625.19	6,335.00	8,960.19	BENTONIA	5,092.58	1,078.50	6,171.08				
FBC MCCOMB	156,041.71	45,451.69	201,493.40	PEARSON	20,147.33	8,982.64	29,129.97	ROCKY HILL	397.78	24.13	421.91		322,735.44	219,367.29	542,102.73	BETHLEHEM	4,837.25	1,997.50	6,834.75				
FBC SUMMIT	63,328.21	21,475.88	84,804.09	PELAHATCHIE	42,029.13	12,860.10	54,889.23	ROSE HILL	913.89	100.00	1,013.89	WALTHALL				BLACK JACK	8,561.32	1,741.00	10,302.32				
FELLOWSHIP	3,142.11	630.00	3,772.11	PINE CREST	20.00	105.00	125.00	SALEM	467.31	1,674.76	2,142.07	CALVARY	2,555.70	1,159.03	3,714.73	CALVARY	5,759.70	2,698.63	8,458.33				
FERNWOOD	3,000.0																						

Legislators whittle bill count; issues of concern still alive

By Paul G. Jones II & Elizabeth K. Holmes

Most of the bills introduced at the beginning of the 1995 Mississippi legislative session died by the end of the second week in March. The following bills of concern are still alive:

Abortion

House Bill (HB) 1183 revises the definition of an abortion facility and provides that abortions be performed only by state-licensed physicians. It also requires statistical reporting of most abortions.

This bill passed in both chambers of the legislature and awaits the governor's signature to become law.

Church & State

Senate Bill (SB) 2172 creates the "Resident Tuition Assistance Grant Program" to allow state educational grants to students in non-profit colleges and universities.

This bill passed in both chambers of the legislature and awaits the governor's signature to become law.

Criminal Justice

HB 795 authorizes judges to sentence violators of certain drug laws to rehabilitation instead of prison. The governor vetoed this bill on March 15; no decision has yet been made on an override attempt.

SB 2175 phases out parole and "good

time" in the state prison system and requires inmates to serve at least 85 % of their sentences. It also repeals the state parole board.

This bill passed in the Senate and in a slightly different form in the House of Representatives. It has been returned to the Senate for concurrence on the House changes.

Drugs

HB 448 provides that any person younger than age 15 when convicted of driving under the influence (DUI) will not be eligible for a driver's license until his/her 18th birthday.

This bill passed in the House of Repre-

sentatives and in a different form in the Senate. It has been returned to the House for concurrence on the Senate changes.

HB 691 creates the criminal offense of trafficking in controlled substances. The governor signed this bill into law on March 15.

HCR (House Concurrent Resolution) 55 amends the state constitution to remove the right to vote of persons convicted of drug sales and distribution.

This bill passed in the House of Representatives and in the Senate in a slightly different form. It has been returned to the House for concurrence on the Senate changes.

SB 2872 prohibits operation of a watercraft while under the influence of liquor or other substances, and establishes implied consent for blood alcohol level testing.

The bill passed in the Senate, and the House of Representatives amended the Senate form. The Senate refused to agree with the House version, so a conference committee of three members from each chamber was established to work out the differences.

Education

SB 3031 clarifies the legal responsibility of parents and legal guardians to attend school discipline conferences.

This bill passed in both chambers of the legislature and awaits the governor's signature to become law.

Family

HB 707 prohibits the possession of

materials which sexually exploit children.

This bill passed in the House of Representatives and in the Senate in a slightly different form. It has been sent to the House for concurrence on the Senate changes.

HB 1296 mandates immediate reporting of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse to a law enforcement agency with jurisdiction.

This bill passed in both chambers of the legislature and awaits the governor's signature to become law.

Gambling

SB 2853 allows charities that operate bingo to designate persons who are not members of the charity to supervise bingo sessions. This radically alters bingo laws to the advantage of outside gambling interests.

This bill passed in Senate and in the House of Representatives in a slightly altered form. It has been sent to the Senate for concurrence on the House changes.

Representatives and senators can be contacted at P.O. Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39215, or by calling (601) 359-3770.

The Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC) can be reached at Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Jones is CAC executive director. Holmes is CAC consultant on women's and family issues.

Summer missionaries to be commissioned during BSU conference at Gulfshore

Spring training for Baptist Student Union takes place March 31-April 2 at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian. Registration begins at 3:30 p.m. Friday. The program begins at 6:45 that evening and concludes Sunday morning at 10:30.

The event is the annual Leadership Training Conference of the Department of Student Work. Featured speakers will be Richard Powell, pastor of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson; Gary Maze, pastor of Horizon Community Church, Jackson; and Nathan Porter, ministry-mission consultant for the Home Mission Board.

Music will be led by Gift of Song from the University of Mis-

issippi; Kindred Heart from Horizon Church, Jackson; Vision from Mississippi College; and Upward Journey from Mississippi Delta Community College.

Included in the weekend will be election of state BSU officers for the next year and a commissioning service for the 96 students appointed as summer missionaries. These students will serve in five foreign countries and 16 other state convention areas. Ken Watkins, BSU director at Mississippi State University, will offer a missions challenge to the student missionaries.

For registration details or for more information, contact the BSU director on a local college campus.

North Delta posts emergency needs

CLARKSDALE — M.C. Johnson, director of missions for the North Delta Association, is requesting assistance for 40 families who recently lost everything in an apartment fire in Clarksdale. There are 200 people affected by this tragedy.

The items needed include: children's clothing and shoes; men's clothing, sizes 46 and larger; women's clothing, sizes 16 and larger; sheets, pillow cases, and other household items.

To help, send items directly to: M.C. Johnson, North Delta Baptist Association, P.O. Box 999, Clarksdale, MS 38614.

HEALTHCARE

FOR THE RECORD

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MBMC offers home health care through new partnership.

Thanks to the new partnership between Mississippi Baptist Medical Center and Central Mississippi Health Care at Home, many MBMC patients are now able to leave the hospital earlier than before, and finish their recovery in the comfort and convenience of their own homes.

"No one wants to stay in the hospital if they can receive their necessary medical treatment at home," said Gerald Cotton, chief operating officer at Baptist. "Home health care is yet another way for Baptist to expand its services and fulfill its Christian mission outside the hospital's walls — providing another needed level of medical services for the community."

"We know that health care doesn't stop when a patient leaves the hospital," Cotton said. "We want to continue to aid in that recovery in the home, where patients can be in a familiar setting and be with their families."

Most people think that home health services are primarily for elderly patients, but MBMC's services go far beyond that, according to Belinda Patterson, Central's administrator. "People are continually surprised at how many types of patients we can provide care for in the home," Patterson said.

"In fact, home health care is growing fastest in specialized areas like pediatrics, diabetic care, neurological therapy and maternity services," Patterson added. "We can also administer blood products at home, along with pain management, ostomy and wound care, or chemotherapy and other cancer care services," she said.

And it's not only nurses ringing the doorbell. Patients can also be seen at home by medical social workers as well as physical, speech and occupational therapists. Certified nursing assistants may also help with personal care and light housekeeping tasks.

In addition to providing care, home health professionals also serve as the eyes, ears and hands of the physicians and are able to observe changes in a patient's condition or reactions to medication once the patient is at home.

Baptist offers services in six central Mississippi counties: Hinds, Madison, Rankin, Copiah, Yazoo and Leake. As in the hospital, all treatment must be prescribed by a physician.

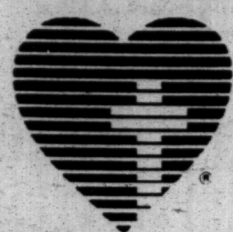
If you'd like more information or a complete listing of the home health services offered, please call us at 352-5065 or 1-800-880-5065.



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Sebastopol (Scott): March 26-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 12:30 and 7:30 p.m.; Lucius Marion, Clarksdale, evangelist; Jasper Butler, Brandon, music; David Sartin, pastor.

New Ireland (Newton): Here's Hope revival; March 26-29; 6:30 nightly; Araron Lewis, Northwest Association, evangelist; Danny and Nancy Harrison, Scott Association, music; Cartis Tucker, pastor.

First, Lauderdale: March 26-29; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; week night services, 7 p.m.;

Just for the Record

Alexander Memorial Church, Hollandale, will observe Foreign Missionary Day on March 26. David and Mary Sills, missionaries to Quito, Ecuador, will speak during the morning and evening services. Refreshments will follow the evening service. Michael McLendon is pastor.

The William Carey College Alumni Association will sponsor a fellowship luncheon for Mississippi Woman's College alumnae on March 28, beginning at 10 a.m. It will be held in the church parlor of First Church, Jackson; tickets are \$5.50. For more information, call Mrs. Jimmie Morgan at (601) 957-2045.

Wynndale Church, Jackson, will host Joy Morgan Davis of Dallas, Texas, March 26 at 7 p.m. Davis is the daughter of the late W.C. Morgan, former director of MBCB's Church Music Department. She will share Christian creativity. For more information, call Charles Gentry, pastor, at (601) 924-6035.

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Jonathon Batarseh, speaker; Chris Lee, music; Mike Russell, pastor.

New Hope, Mt. Olive: March 26-29; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner on the grounds, and 1 p.m. service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.

Burns, Raleigh: March 24-26; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch, and 1 p.m.; Terrell McGregor, Calhoun City, evangelist; Melva Butler, Burns Church, music; Charles Bonner, pastor.

Tylertown (Walthall): March 26-29; services, 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Frank Harmon, Newton, evangelist; Ronnie Cottingham, Lucedale, music; David L. Sellers, pastor.

Puckett (Rankin): March 26-29; regular Sunday services; 7 p.m. nightly; Alvin Doyle, former pastor and missionary to Nigeria, evangelist; Bo Parker, Columbia, music; Barry Ward, pastor.

Society Hill, Oakvale: March 26-29; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; weekdays, 7 p.m.; James T. Ray, Columbia, evangelist; Mark McArthur, Columbia, music; Glen Nelson, pastor.

Woodville Heights, Jackson: March 26-29; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jack Gregory, Red Banks, evangelist; Randy Stone, Bellevue, Fla., music; Wayne Kimbrough, pastor.

Grace Chapel, Brooklyn: March 26-31; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Lewis Trotter, Brooklyn, evangelist.

list; James Kendall, Cleveland, music; T.W. Kendall, pastor.

Crestview, Petal: March 26-31; services, 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; W. A. Fordham, Petal, evangelist; Jerry Wayne Lowery, Crestview Church, music; Raymond Parkin, pastor.

State Boulevard, Meridian: March 26-29; services, 7 p.m. nightly; Chuck Pourciau, Louisville, evangelist; Wayne Baggett, Decatur, Ala., music; Philip Smith, pastor.

Belden (Lee): March 26-29; services, 7 p.m.; Kara Blackard, Corinth, evangelist; Joe Scott, Belden Church, music; Don Baggett, pastor.

Collins, Collins: March 26-29; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m. daily; Richard Bradley, Gulfport, evangelist; Bob Jones, Hattiesburg, music; John R. Sapp, pastor.

Faith, Hickory Flat: March 26-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Kenny Digby, Fulton, evangelist; Steve Parrish, Pontotoc, music; W. G. Dowdy, pastor.

Hebron (Yazoo): March 31-April 2; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner at noon, and 1:30 p.m. service; Paul Stupka, Tupelo, evangelist; David Mikkelsen, pastor.

Liberty, Forest: March 26-29; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bill Causey, MBCB executive director-treasurer, evangelist; Lloyd Brown, music; Jim Sanders, pastor.

Oak Grove, Smithdale: March 31-April 2; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Dwayne Achord, student at New Orleans Seminary, evangelist; Tim Jackson, Smithdale, music; Cletus Moak, pastor.

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Names in the News

E.B. Sellers, father of Bill Sellers of Brandon, died March 15. He was 100 years old. Funeral services were held March 18 in Franklin, Tenn. Bill Sellers is the former Annuity Board representative for Mississippi; he retired from that position in February.

F. Charles Mullins Jr. of Brandon, a master of divinity student, was among 16 students at Midwestern Seminary who were recently named to "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges." He is the son of Frank and Mary Ann Mullins of Brandon. He considers Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, his home church.

Homecomings

Lincoln Road, Hattiesburg: 10th anniversary; March 26; 11 a.m.; covered dish at noon; afternoon singing; Ernest Sadler, director of missions, Jackson Association, speaker; L.D. Golmon, pastor.

Harmony, Cruger: April 30; 10:30 a.m.; dinner on grounds at noon; 1:30 p.m. singing; Ken Gower, pastor, speaker; Linda Horton and Robin, Greenville, guest singers.

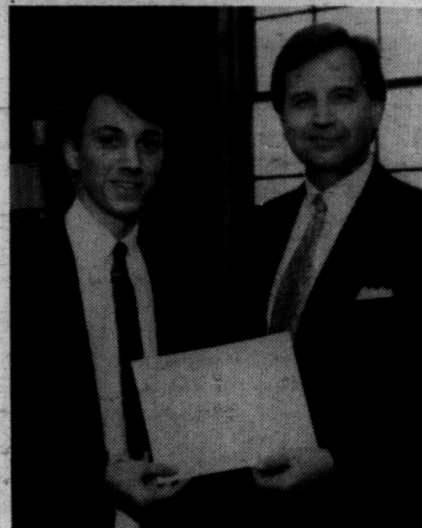
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Jon Van West (left), son of Mr. and Mrs. Milton V. West of Brookhaven, has been named recipient of the T.M. Hederman III Memorial Scholarship at Mississippi College for the 1994-1995 school year. The award is presented to the most outstanding freshman and is considered the most prestigious award for young men. **Howell W. Todd** (right), president of Mississippi College, presented the scholarship.

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Uniform Deal with differences



By Greg Potts
2 Corinthians 12-13

Conflict is a part of life. When you are working with other people there is always the potential for disagreements and differences of opinions. If these disagreements are not handled properly in a church they can become serious problems.

The church at Corinth had experienced its share of differences of opinions. In 1 Corinthians, Paul addressed several sources of disagreements that existed in the church. There were problems with former pastors, problems with immorality, and problems about the importance of different spiritual gifts. All of these problems had created confusion in the church.

As Paul closes out the letter of 2 Corinthians, he does so by encouraging the Corinthians to deal with their differences. Are there differences of opinion that have festered and caused problems in your church? Is there conflict between you and some other member of your congregation that is hindering the work of your church? If so, you need to deal with those differences. Unfortunately, experience tells us these problems seldom go away unless they are dealt with. Paul explains how to deal with our differences.

The source of the problem (12:19-21). Paul begins by listing the problems in the church that were causing the dissension and disagreements among the people. In these verses, Paul uses 11 words that paint a picture of a very troubled church. From these 11 words, it does not appear that much harmony and unity existed in the church. When there is little harmony and unity in a church, it is difficult to accomplish much for the Lord. But what is the source of the problems that existed in the church? James answers that question. He says, "What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. And you are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives..." (James 4:1-3).

Thus, the real source of most of the problems that cause discord in a church lies in the hearts of our people. There is jealousy and envy that manifests itself in strife and bitterness.

The solution to the problem (13:5). Throughout much of 2 Corinthians, Paul had been defending himself. Now, Paul turns the tables on the Corinthians and encourages them to examine themselves! He writes, "Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!"

It is difficult for any of us to look inward. We would much rather compare ourselves, or measure ourselves, against others and, when we do, we often feel that we are not as bad as someone else. However, the Bible teaches that our standard for success in the Christian life is Jesus — not another Christian.

When we fail to look inward, we never get to the root of the problem. In order to solve whatever problems may exist in our churches and in our own personal lives, we must get to the root of the problem. That requires examining ourselves. When you do so, how do you fare?

Strength for the problem (13:11). Paul closes this letter by appealing to the Corinthians to "be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace." These were worthy goals for a troubled congregation, yet Paul knew they could not achieve these without help. Thus, Paul closed that verse with a word of encouragement, "and the God of love and peace shall be with you." In other words, you are not in this thing alone! The Holy Spirit will help you!

Jesus has promised never to leave us nor forsake us. He promised he would go with his disciples as they share the gospel around the world (Matt. 28:20). The Holy Spirit will help us work out our differences.

Would you today, begin working out the problems that exist in your life? You will probably discover that as you do, the problems that exist between you and others will be dealt with as well. It will probably not be easy and could very well take time, but it will be worth the effort.

Deal with your differences!

Potts is pastor, First Church, Vancleave.

Bible Book Prophecies against nations



By Sylvia Fleming
Jeremiah 46-52

Jeremiah's final prophecies of mighty doom were not to Judah, but to surrounding nations. If the anger and judgment of God against his own people were any indication of the doom to be poured upon them, then it would be almost inconceivable. Once prophecy foretold of the overthrow of Egypt and its gloom, with no hope of relief in sight. That must have been extremely hard for the Egyptians to accept. Their army had been recruited from all over the known world and was recognized as the most powerful. Because of Egyptian might, they expected to go forth and conquer the world.

According to Jeremiah, Pharaoh-Necho would order them to attack, but they would be beaten back, panic stricken. In their attempt to conquer Babylon, they would be unsuccessful as God would raise up Nebuchadnezzar to do a work for him. Because of God's providential hand, Egypt would come to lose all of its Asian holdings. Any preparations that Egypt could have made would have been futile, because it was not in God's holy will that she be a world conqueror. The Egyptians would be pitifully embarrassed in their defeat and humiliation.

Just because God was on Babylon's side against Egypt, that did not mean they were particularly favored by God. The Babylonians would be tremendously punished. If God will punish his chosen Jews as he has, then how much more greatly will he punish other nations who have sinned against both him and his people?

God gave his people hope by reminding them that they had not been forgotten or forsaken. He would protect Judah and Israel by sending someone to destroy Babylon. In the face of the destroyer, Babylon would be helpless. That the defenders would fail was made very clear through the figurative language of the "winnowing" and the "archer's bow." All would be destroyed, except the wheat which was symbolic of God's Hebrew people.

Those Babylonians were wealthy people who thought they were invincible. In Daniel's image, Babylon was referred to as the "Head of Gold" and in Jeremiah's prophecy, she was compared to a "golden cup," the vessel by which the nations had been made drunk. Babylon in all her riches would come to an end as Jeremiah prophesied, and as will her New Testament counterpart at the end of the tribulation. Historically, Babylon was such a wicked nation; she is still wicked, and so will be the religious and political Babylon of the future.

When Judah was taken captive and carried into Babylonian exile, she had been instructed to go into that foreign country, make homes, and minister, and so she did. The Jews tried to teach the Babylonian nation of the wickedness of her idolatry, but the Chaldeans refused to lay aside their graven images. Jeremiah in his prophecy said that one day these people would be repaid for all of the evil they had heaped upon Israel and Judah. In that prophecy is a bit of foreshadowing. As historical Babylon would be repaid for her evil to the Jews, so will future political and religious Babylon be repaid for her evil heaped upon God's people during the Day of the Lord.

The Day of the Lord will be that period of time that God will intervene in the lives and works of man. It will begin when the church is "... caught up..." to meet the Lord in the air..." and will end just prior to the beginning of eternity (1 Thes. 4:17). During this time men will be drastically punished through the rampant fakery of the Antichrist. As God's 144,000 Jewish people will be in the midst of heathen idolators — the Antichrist worshippers — attempting to win them to the Lord, as they did during historical Babylon, their very lives will be in danger. Only the protective hand of God will be able to save a remnant out of that terrible time.

The 12 tribes are truly a nation set apart to be abundantly blessed. Even though they have been extremely disobedient, they have protected the Word of God, and gone where wiser, fiercer people would not have dared to have trod in preserving and spreading God's Word. God's people through their disobedience broke the covenant he had with them, and yet he remained faithful. God always longs to forgive and restore his people to a loving relationship with him.

Fleming is an English teacher and member of Harmony Church, Louisville.

Life and Work Challenge to be ready



By Michael Johnson
Mark 13

Several weeks ago in the local paper there was an insert promoting a series of "prophecy seminars" to be held in the Jackson area. The flyer sought to appeal to the reader by suggesting that those who attended would be given answers to how the future would unfold.

"60 Minutes," the CBS newsmagazine, recently carried a report on "infocommercials" and cited the overwhelming popularity and growth of the "Psychic Friends" network. People seem to be obsessed with knowing the future. This week's lesson offers some guidelines for Christians as we think about the days ahead.

Don't be obsessed over signs. It is natural to be curious. Jesus' own disciples had questions regarding the "what" and "when" of the end of time. We should be careful in our reading of Mark 13:3-8 for there is much that we do not fully understand regarding the background of Jesus' comments. Several things, however, do seem clear.

First, Jesus seems to take his own counsel (see Matt. 6:34) and suggests that there are at least three signs of God's judgment which are present in each generation: 1) the rise of cults and false religions; 2) social upheaval accompanied by wars and rumors of wars; and 3) natural catastrophes such as earthquakes and famine.

While these events are tragic they are the consequences of living in an imperfect world. Man will always be inventing systems of belief in a search for spirituality; self-interest and greed will dictate violence; and imbalances of natural law and the continued upsetting of the ecological system will bring natural disasters. It should be pointed out that when these things happen Christians must act: take a stand against false religions and war and show compassion to the victims of natural disasters.

These things, Jesus warns, are not to be interpreted as signs of the final judgment. Yet when these events do occur there are those who issue calls for repentance and with dire predictions that the end is here. A study of history clearly shows that the false prophets of gloom and doom have been present in every generation.

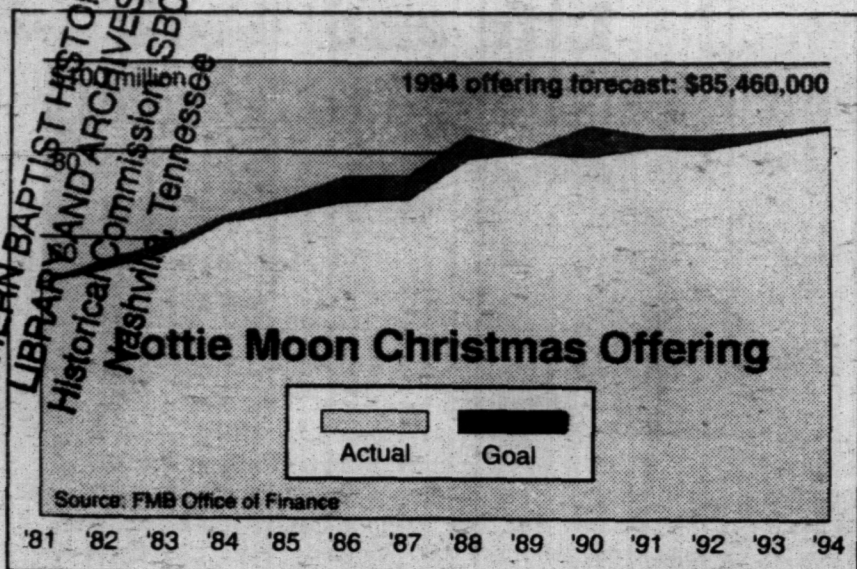
Coming in power and glory. There should be no mistaking of Jesus' teachings — Jesus is coming again. While every generation will deal with false expectations regarding the second coming, there will be a generation for which the second coming will be a reality. Again, while the passages are difficult to interpret with accuracy, it is generally believed that Mark was writing to the Roman Christians who were suffering under the persecution of Nero.

No doubt reading these words from Christ brought comfort to them and to us as we hear the truth that it is God who is in ultimate control of the universe and Caesar is only a very small part of that domain. Those who live under persecution can be assured that their faith will be rewarded and move forward with the certainty that the victory has already been determined!

Stay alert and stay busy. The bottom line is that no one knows when Christ might return — including Christ himself! While it is not within our province to know these things, it is our responsibility to be watchful and prayerful and be ready when that time might come. We are therefore to be ceaselessly occupied in the work that God has given us to do, primarily the sharing of the gospel to those God has brought within our circles of influence.

There is a wonderful children's story that originated in Russia regarding a man named Martin who was a shoemaker. In a dream, Martin learned that Christ was going to visit him the next day. Waking early with the dream fresh on his mind, he eagerly watched for his Lord. As the day progressed Martin did not see Christ but he mediated an argument between two people, shared food with an old man, and assisted a young woman and child with warm clothing. That night when Martin went to sleep he dreamed again of Christ. This time Martin expressed his disappointment that Christ had not come. On the contrary, Christ replied, he had visited Martin three times that day and each time Martin had welcomed Christ through the meeting of whatever need was present.

Johnson is associate professor of Christian education at Mississippi College, Clinton.



OFFERING FORECAST — This graph shows a pattern of increase for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions and indicates this year's forecast is the closest the offering has come to its annual goal since 1981. The 1994 intake of a record \$85.5 million is about a half million dollars short of the goal. Based on projections released March 10, it represents a 3.1% increase over 1993, the biggest jump since 1988. (BP graphic by David Willard)

Mississippians urged to support Kazakh children by donating vitamins

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Mississippi Baptists have a special opportunity to help destitute children in one of the poorest republics of the old Soviet Union, but time is running out.

Mary Miller, a member of Broadmoor Church in Jackson and president of International Business Partners in Clinton, is rounding up children's vitamins — as many as she can, as soon as she can — for shipment to Aktau, Kazakhstan during the first week in April.

Time is short because space has been offered free of charge on a U.S. government plane headed to Kazakhstan that week, she said, which will save a huge amount of money normally expended on shipping fees.

Distribution of the vitamins in Aktau will be overseen by staffers of Cooperative Services International (CSI), a branch of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, and related personnel, she added.

"During the painful transition from communism to a free-market economy, the situation in Kazakhstan will worsen before it gets better. Many children will not survive

if we don't help," Miller said.

The children's vitamins should be sent as quickly as possible to the attention of Jan Gilbert, Broadmoor Baptist Church, 787 E. Northside Drive, Jackson, MS 39206. For more information, contact Miller at (601) 925-3800, or (601) 856-6526.

Corrections

In the March 9, 1995, issue of *The Baptist Record*, the name of a Clarke College special committee member on page 8 was misspelled due to an incorrect listing. The correct spelling is Ernest Sadler.

In the March 16, 1995, issue of *The Baptist Record*, three dates were incorrect on page 5 due to reporter's error. The correct dates are: 1959, Mississippi College begins Church Music Department; 1987, Hall dies of heart attack; 1988, Graham Smith selected as new Church Music Department director.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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EXF QNCX MNEPP QNEQ BVAOCF JC KCRCEPCF,
BNGY QNC PGKF MNEPP AGXMHYC BVQN QNC
MUVKVQ GS NVM YGHQN, EXF MNEPP FCMQKGT
BVQN QNC JKVDNQXCMM GS NVM AGYVXD:

MCAGXF QNCMMEPGXVEXM QBG: CVDNQ

This week's clue: M equals S.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Fourteen: Forty-Nine.

BSSB's "Marriage Savers" gains national attention

NASHVILLE (BP) — The "True Love Waits" abstinence campaign isn't the only Southern Baptist story gaining widespread attention these days.

Three nationally known news publications have taken notice of Baptist Sunday School Board resources designed to save marriages.

Time, *U.S. News & World Report*, and *The Washington Times* have all printed stories recently about divorce — a plague they report is weakening American society.

In their stories, they refer to syndicated religion columnist Michael McManus and the community marriage policy he is promoting around the country. McManus is author of two books being offered within a video package by the BSSB — *Marriage Savers* and *Insuring Marriage: 25 Proven Ways to Prevent Divorce*.

"Sixty percent of American children born today will see their parents divorced by the time they are 18," McManus said in an earlier Baptist Press interview. "Of those children who have suffered this pain of divorce, half of them will see a second divorce before they are 18."

Other statistics McManus routinely quotes are:

- Six of 10 new marriages will

end in divorce or separation.

- 1 million children will see their parents divorce this year.

- One-half of new marriages annually are remarriages.

- 75% of remarriages fail.

In the Feb. 27 issue of *U.S. News & World Report*, McManus is quoted as saying: "God hates divorce."

In *Time*, Feb. 27, McManus said churches must take more responsibility for creating marriages that last, noting that fewer than 20% of American couples had premarital counseling.

"If it is the job of a church to bond couples for life, it has to provide more help before and after," he said.

A member of Fourth Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, Md., McManus has traveled to nearly 30 cities from Fairbanks, Alaska, and Modesto, Calif., to Louisville, Ky., and Atlanta touting his community marriage policy.

The marriage policy "galvanizes support from an array of groups," Tim Cleary, a consultant of single adult work at the Sunday School Board, said in the March 1 *Washington Times* article.

"Young people are choosing to remain single or unmarried out of fear, because they've seen so many problems in marriages," he said. "They are looking for someone to

tell them right and wrong."

Essentially, the community marriage policy is an effort to join the forces of area clergy from several denominations in signing a community contract that would radically reduce the divorce rate, McManus said. He believes the answer lies in ecumenical cooperation.

Some of the rules of the community marriage contract include:

- requiring engaged couples to undergo a minimum of four months of marriage preparation; completing a premarital inventory that identifies areas of conflict in the relationship.

- having mentor couples in the congregation work with engaged and newlywed couples.

- encouraging engaged and married couples to attend weekend encounters.

- appointing a committee of attorneys to draft possible changes in marriage and divorce laws.

McManus' two books are packaged by the Baptist Sunday School Board with a *Marriage Savers* Video Series (six 30-minute videos) and a leader's guide. Cleary said the video package helps church leaders know how to address the issues and needs of persons who are dating, engaged, newly married, estranged couples, separated and divorced couples, and remarried/blended families.

Counselor's advice:

Good marriages require hard work

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (ABP) — Entering marriage with the idea you can do it "just right" sets couples up for disappointment, said Christian counselor James Hightower.

Instead of blindly assuming everything will be fine, couples should enter marriage understanding "if we keep working at it, we will have a better chance of making it go," said Hightower, minister of pastoral care and acting pastor at First Church, Huntsville, Ala.

Couples should find help from the church in working on their marriages, Hightower said in a seminar on "Seven Things that Can Go Wrong in a Marriage" Feb. 27-28. He spoke as part of the "Family Works" conference sponsored by the Baptist Center for Ethics at First Church of Knoxville, Tenn.

Hightower cited seven potential problems couples face and must solve for healthy marriages:

- Communication. There are two basic problems in this area, he said. The first is "speaking the truth in an unloving way" and the second is "saying what we think is the loving thing whether it is the truth or not."

The first is the lesser of the two problems, Hightower said. In the second case one spouse will eventually get "a gut full" and that will result in a "gargantuan explosion."

- "You've got to be different"

syndrome. One of the hardest things to do in a marriage is to let the partner be who he or she is, Hightower said.

- "I'm not in love with you anymore." When couples marry, they let their "ego boundaries" fall, Hightower said. The boundaries begin to rise again later in the marriage. One morning one of the couple wakes up, looks at the spouse and wonders, "I can't believe I married you."

Hightower explained that when the ego boundaries go up, a person decides whether he or she really can love the mate.

- Responsibility for relationship. In marriages, it's hard to figure out who is responsible for the relationship, Hightower said. As a result, it is easy to act like no one is, he said.

- Money. "I think in marriage money is about one thing — power," Hightower said. "Who is in control?"

- Relatives. Couples must deal with priorities in relationships, Hightower said. In some cases, extended family members make it difficult for a new couple to live their own life.

- Sexual problems. Many times sexual problems are related to one of the six issues listed above, Hightower observed. "When you start clearing out the underbrush, the sexual problems clear up." An underlying issue in marital problems is that, especially after the

arrival of children, couples lose "play time" when they can get away together for dinner or a movie.

Thus one way churches could strengthen marriages is by providing periodic "family night out" child-care programs.

Hightower concluded that the core issue of every marriage is one of "near and far."

"How near can we get without swallowing each other up and how far can we get without getting a divorce?" he asked.

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SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203

Box 530, Jackson, Tenn.